January 10, 14

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Awqaf ministry announces special prayers for King Hussein

AMMAN (Petra) - The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs announced Wednesday that special prayers will be performed on Friday, Feb. 12, for the soul of the late King Hussein Ben Talal at all mosques in the Kingdom. The announcement said the special services will be conducted upon the conclusion of the



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AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11-12, 1999, SHAWWAL 25-26, 1419

Price: Jordan 200 Fils

Saddam presents condolences to Jordan embassy

BAGHDAD (AFP) - Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Wednesday presented his condolences to Jordan's embassy in Baghdad for the death of King Hussein through a representative. "The director of the president's office came to the embassy to present his condolences in the name of President Saddam Hussein," an embassy spokesman told AFP. Hundreds of Iraqis and Arabs resident in Iraq, as well as members of the capital's diplomatic corps, descended on the Jordanian embassy in Baghdad to sign their names in the condo-

Syrian FM upbeat about improving bilateral ties

DAMASCUS (AFP) - Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa was upbeat Wednesday about future relations with Jordan, after the visit to Amman by President Hafez Assad and his talks with His Majesty King Abdullah. "We feel a page has indeed been turned and that the way is now open for an improvement in relations with our brothers in Jordan." he told journalists. He described Jordan as a "fraternal country" and said the meeting between Assad and King Abdullah on the sidelines of the funeral of King Hussein was "fruitful and friendly."

Thieves break into Barak's car

TEL AVIV (AFP) Unknown thieves smashed the window of Labour Party leader Ehud Barak's car in Tel Aviv on Wednesday and stole a number of documents relating to his electoral campaign, police sources said. "We view this incident as a very serious matter." a police official told AFP. "The thieves stole documents containing information about Barak's platform and copies of his speeches." the official added. The police took finger prints off the car and have launched an investigation into the incident.

Israeli who spied for Soviets released

TELAVIV (R) - Israel decided on Wednesday to free from juil a reserve colonel who spied for the Soviet Union in the 1980s after he served eight years of a 12-year sentence, an official said. A prison authority spokeswoman said a parole hourd reduced the sentence of Shimon Levinson-Lavi by oneathird and he would go free on

Wednesday Levinson-Lavi was arrested in 1991 and convicted later of passing secrets to the Soviet Union, high treason and other security offences. Israel Radio said he worked as a security officer in the prime minister's office when he committed the crimes. "He gave the KGB secret documents revealing Israel's intelligence alignment and secret telegrams from the name minister's office and he revealed to the Soviets the identities of top members of the intelligence community," the radio viid.

Israeli wounded in Gaza bomb blast

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — An Israeli civilian was slightly wounded in the Palestinian-controlled Gaza Strip overnight when a remotecontrolled bomb was set off as his car passed, the Israeli military said Wednesday. The bomb went off on a road between the Jewish settlement of Netzarim, near Gaza City, and the border with Israel at Karni. The civilian, whose car was being escented by Israeli troops, was taken to hospital in Jerusalem.

King receives condolences from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia

AMMAN (Petra) - His Majesty King Abdullah on Wednesday received a cable from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia expressing sympathy on the passing of King Hussein and wishing King Abdullah success in leading the Jordanian people.

We received the news about the passing of King Hussein with deep grief as we have lost a dear brother, and I would like to express my sympathy and condolences and that of Saudi Arabia to you, the Hashemite family and the Jordanian people," King Fahd

He added: "We hope Your Majesty will — with God's help — follow in the footsteps of your late father under the present circumstances and challenges which confront our nation. Saudi Arabia reaffirms its deep-rooted brotherly links with Jordan and prays to God that He may bless King Hussein's soul and help you to serve your country and the Arab and Islamic nations."

In another cable, King Abdullah received condolences from Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz, the Saudi

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel released on Wednesday its

longest-held Arab prisoner, an

Egyptian national arrested in

1977 for attacking Israeli forces

Mahmud Sawarka, 69, was

taken from a prison near the

southern city of Ashkelon and

handed over to Egyptian

authorities at the Rafah cross-

ing between the Gaza Strip into

Egypt, a spokesman at the pris-

His release was ordered by

President Ezer Weizman as part

of a wider review of the cases

of Arabs and Arab Israelis held

Sawarka was the longest-

held Arab prisoner in Israeli

He was sentenced to 45 years

in prison for throwing a

grenade at Israeli forces occu-

pying the Sinai, killing one sol- in

in Israeli jails, officials said.

jails, the spokesman said.

ons authority told AFP.

in the Sinai.

crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard.

Paying tribute to King Hussein, Crown Prince Abdullah said: "The late King, with his political wisdom, has placed signs on the road to guide you so that there will be no change in the strong, brotherly ties between us. We reassure you that we will stand by you and by the Jordanian people in good times as well as bad."

"King Hussein was not a mere passer-by in this world, he entered history books not only representing his people and his family but the Arab Nation, with the legacy he has left behind him after 47 years of rule." Prince Abdullah added.

Recalling his visit to the Mayo Clinic last year while the late King was being treated for cancer. Prince Abdullah said the late King left a deep impression on me and will leave a deep impression on the people of Saudi Arabia."

Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz and Prince Faisal Ben Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia sent cables to King Abdullah expressing deep sor-

Sinai under a 1979 peace treaty

According to relatives in

Egypt. Sawarka has been suf-

fering from stomach ailments

and eye problems. During his

first year in prison, his wife

gave hinh to a baby girl. Sami-

ra, who he was allowed to meet

for the first time in 1997 when

Israeli press reports in the

past have linked the eventual

release of Sawarka or some of

around a dozen other Egyptians

held by Israel to the release by

Egypt of Azzam Azzam, an

Israeli Druze sentenced to 15

years in prison in 1997 on

Israel denies Azzam is a spy

and Weizman discussed his

case in September with Egypt-

ian President Hosni Mubarak

Alexandria, although

charges of spying for Israel.

with Egypt.

row over the loss of King Hussein. They wished King Abdullah mucb success in the leadership of the Jordanian

people. King Abdullah also received a cable of sympathy from the emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifeh Al Thani. Sheikh Hamad said he shares with Jordan its grief and sorrow over the loss of "the statesman of peace."

The emir reaffirmed his country's full support for strong brotherly relations between Qatar and Jordan.

He also sent a cable to HRH Crown Prince Hamzah, offering his sympathies and wishing the Prince and the Jordanian people progress and pros-

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi Wednesday called King Abdullah by telephone to express his condolences, paying tribute to the late King Hussein's efforts in uniting Arab ranks and serving the causes of the Arab and Muslim nations.

Also Wednesday, Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh held a telephone conversation with King Abdullah during

calls for the Israeli's early

Weizman and Mubarak both

attended King Hussein's funer-

al in Amman on Monday, but it

was not known if they met or

In addition to the Egyptians,

Israel is currently believed to be

holding 52 Lebanese prisoners,

22 Syrians. 21 Jordanians.

seven Iragis, three Iranians, two

Kuwaitis and a Libyan, in addi-

tion to about 3,000 Palestinians

and several dozen Israeli Arabs

detained for security offences.

muted life prison terms of four

Israeli-Arab prisoners charged

with killing Israelis to shorter

sentences and pardoned a fifth

as part of a broader review of

the files of Arab prisoners in

Weizman last month com-

Israel releases longest-held Arab prisoner

dier. Israel withdrew from the Mubarak in December rejected

release.

discussed

Israeli jails.

exchange issue.

which they exchanged views about issues of common concem to Yemen and Jordan. Saleh voiced his country's full support for Jordan on various

In another cable, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan told King Abdullah that he was looking forward to working with him, adding that Jordan plays a vital role in the Middle East region and as a member of the United

In Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad's cable to the King on Wednesday, the premier said, "I am quite confident that Jordan, under your leadership, will enter a new era

of peace and prosperity."
The Chilean government expressed the Chilean people's deep grief and sorrow in a letter to the Royal Court,

Chile wished King Abdullah success in his efforts to achieve a just peace and stability in the Middle East.

Also Wednesday, King Abdullah received a cable of condolences from the president of Vietnam in which he wished Jordan continued success and prosperity.

His office said he is currently

studying at least 20 other cases

of Arab security prisoners. Last week Weizman also

shortened the sentences of eight

Jews held for killing or wound-

Israeli press reports said

Weizman wanted to release or

cut the sentences of more Arab

prisoners as part of an effort to

ease tensions between Israel

and the Palestinians over

implementation of the Wye

Under the land-for-security

deal signed in October, Israel

agreed to release 750 Palestin-

But when the right-wing gov-

ernment of Prime Minister

Benyamin Netanyahu freed a

first batch of 250 in November.

only 100 were political

detainees and the rest common

River peace accord.

ian prisoners.

criminals.

ing Arabs.



His Majesty King Abdullah meets Wednesday with Prince Bandar Ben Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the U.S., who offered condolences to the King on the passing of King Hussein (Photo by Yousef 'Allan)

King receives condolences from Saudi envoy to U.S.

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Abdullah on Wednesday received Prince Bandar Ben Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the U.S., who was accompanied hy Prince Faisal Ben Turki.

The two princes offered their condolences to the King on the passing of King Hussein and wisbed him success in the leadership of the Jordanian people.

Upon arrival in Amman, Prince Bandar said: "We, vour brothers in Saudi Arabia, feel that we have lost a great leader who was great in life and in death, attracting the world's dignitaries who attended his funeral in recognition of his princi-

"To me, personally, I feel I lost a father, a friend and a leader. I consider myself a brother to the late King's

sons," Prince Bandar said. "We have great hope that King Abdullah will follow in the footsteps of his father." he said, adding that relations between his country and Jordan will remain strong and solid and will

last forever.

Also Wednesday, King Abdullah received the president of Djibouti, Haj Hassan Goulid, who offered his condolences and those of his people.

Goulid said the passing of King Hussein was a great loss for the Arab and Islamic nations. King Abdullah was also

condoled by former Lebanese Presidents Elias Hrawi and Amin Gemayel and former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. The Lebanese dignitaries wished the King success in the leadership of the Jordanian people towards further progress and prosperi-

Abdullah also received Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Hoss, who voiced the grief of the Lebanese government and people.

Upon their arrival in Amman earlier, they paid tribute to King Hussein's endeavours to promote pan-Arab national interests.

King Abdullah also received Sheikh Tameem. the son of Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifeh Al Thani, the emir of Qatar. In offering condolences from the leader, people and government of Qatar, Sheikh Tameem wished the King success in his leadership of

Arriving in Amman Wednesday, Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser, wife of the emir of Qatar, headed a women's delegation to offer condolences to the Royal

> family. Wednesday, Her Also Majesty Queen Noor received condolences from Prince Bandar Ben Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz, Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser, Instisar Al Wazir, wife of the late Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad), Rasha Al Sabah, and

> Hrawi and his wife. Also receiving condolences were Their Royal Highnesses Princess Basma Bint Talal, Princess Rania Abdullah, Princess Taghrid Mobammad, Princess Sarvath Al Hassan, Princess Alia, Princess Zein, Princess Aisha, Princess Haya, Princess Iman and Princess Raya, and other

members of the Royal fam-

U.S. aircraft attack two sites in southern Iraq Iraqi civilian killed, several wounded in air attack, INA says

Agencies

FOR THE first time in a week. American aircraft fired at two air desence sites in Iraq Wednesday after three waves of Iraqi fighter jets violated the southern "no-fly" zone, U.S. military officials said. No activity was reported

over the northern zone. although patrols also were con-

The incidents occurred near Talil. about 270 kilometres southeast of Baghdad, and near Al Najaf, about 160 kilometres south of Baghdad, between 0730 GMT and 930 GMT, said U.S. Central Command. An Iraqi civilian was killed

and several others were wounded when "enemy planes" bombed an Iraqi air defence installation in the southern no-fly zone, the Iraqi news agency (INA) said.

The agency quoted an Iraqi military spokesman as saying that "several enemy formanons" flying out of Turkey. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia had violated Iraqi air-space.

"The criminal enemy bombing cost the martyrdom of a civilian in the town of Najaf where several others were wounded." he said.

All coalinon aircraft returned said. safely to their air bases, the Pentagon said, U.S. officials didn't immediately identify the planes or report how many were involved, although F-15 and F-16 fighter jets and Marine EA-6B Prowler aircraft frequently patrol the

In three separate incidents, a pair of Russian-made MiG-23 or MiG-25 jets entered the nofly zone, where U.S. and British patrols have barred Iraqi military flights since after the 1991 Gulf War to protect rebel groups from Saddam

The Iraqi planes immediately turned tail when confronted, the officials said.

They were involved in this pattern of cheat and retreat," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Ernest Duplessis, a spokesman for U.S. Central Command in Florida. "It was a provocation."

The U.S. pilots weren't targeted by the Iraqi jets or by the anni-aircraft missile sites, but struck against the air defence systems as a self-defensive measure, Duplessis said. "There was no [radar] illumi-

nation, but anytime we have a ber on Iraqi military and com-Hussein's forces. U.S. officials violation of the no-fly zone, munication sites.

that is a threat." Duplessis said. "And so the air defence sites were struck."

The U.S. warplanes struck six Iraqi targets, including surface-to-air-missile batteries and associated command and control systems, according to Duplessis, who said a damage assessment was still under way to determine if the sites were destroyed.

Tensions have been high in the region since the United States and Britain, which share patrol duties over the region. unleashed air strikes in Decem-

Arafat 'studying' postponement of Palestinian state

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palesinian President Yasser Arafat hinted Wednesday that he could delay a unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood in May, a step Israel has warned will lead it to annex occupied territo-

Speaking to reporters after talks here with Belgian Deputy Prime Minister Elio di Rupo. Arafat said he would consult with governments which sponsored the Oslo peace accords with Israel before deciding on the timing of an eventual statehood

declaration. "We will now study and consult with the states which signed the peace agreements." Arafat said when asked

by reporters if he was still insisting on Palesunians' right to proclaim independence on May 4.

In the past Arafat has called May 4 — the date with the five-year interim autonomy period for the Palestinians laid down by the Oslo accords expires - as a "sacred date."

But Palestinian officials have been hinting in recent weeks that Arafat, at the demand of Europe, the United States and Egypt, could agree to put off the declaration in exchange for firm international support of the Palesunian goal of self-determination.

Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu, who has frozen land-forsecurity agreements with the Palestinians, has warned he will annex Palestinian territory still under Israel's control if the Palestinians declare statehood.

Tuesday one of Arafat's most senior negotiators, Nabil Shaath, also said that the Palestinians were now "studying" a postponement in the announcement of an independent state.

"We are studying an idea presented by friendly countries to delay by two or three weeks the proclamation of our independent state," Shaath admit-

He said the aim was not to boost the position of Netanyahu and other Israeli right-wingers just ahead of Israeli general elections scheduled for

Netanyahu effectively brought progress in the peace process to a hait by refusing to implement a second military redeployment from the West Bank due in December.

The Israeli government argued that the Palestinians were not fulfilling their side of the accord, including by continually saying they would unilaterally declare independence rather than negotiate the future of the occupied areas with Israel.

Di Rupo, who is due to meet Netanyahu on Thursday, called Wednesday for Israel to fulfil its commitments under October's Wve River

Iraq's Aziz to visit Turkey on Monday

ANKARA (AFP) — Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz will make oneday working visit to Turkey on Monday, the Turkish foreign ministry said in a statement Wednesday.

The visit will focus on the Iraqi crisis and bilateral ties between Ankara and Baghdad, the ministry said

The official Iraqi news agency INA said Aziz would hold talks on "common interests" with Turkish officials.

The statement did not give Aziz's itinerary, but said he would hold some high-level meetings.

A Turkish diplomatic source said the Iraqi deputy premier was expected to meet Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit and possibly President Suleyman Demirel.

The visit comes during a period of tension between the two states, over Turkey allowing U.S. and British planes to use its territory as a base for patrol operauons in Iraq's northern no-

fly zone. The no-fly zones, imposed after the 1991 Gulf War to protect Iraq's Kurdish and Shiite minorities, extend north of the 36th Parallel and up to the 33rd Parallel in the south. reaching the outskirts of Baghdad.

Several clashes have

erupted between the Western allies' aircraft and Iraqi ground troops and jets in the exclusion zones since the end of the Desert Fox air war last December. Ecevit has voiced concern about U.S. policies

towards Ankara's southern

neighbour Iraq, particular-

ly over the increasing number of clashes in the northern no-fly zone. "What will these result in? It is not possible to invade a country through air strikes... But a ground operation would cause the

U.S. and the region prob-

lems," he said. Turkey supported the U.S.-led multinational coalition during the Gulf War, allowing U.S. planes based in southern Turkey to participate bombing

raids on Iraq. But Ankara has since complained of a loss of some \$35 billion due to the trade embargo on Baghdad.

Aziz had previously visited Turkey in June 1991 and November 1996.

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الما وهوايكا

Syrians vote in referendum on Hafez Assad presidency

DAMASCUS (AFP) - Syrians went to the polls in a festive atmosphere on Wednesday to cast their hallots in a referendum on a fifth seven-year term in office for President Hafez Al-Assad.

The referendum, which should have taken place on Monday, was postponed for two days because of the death of King Hussein,

Assad was a surprise guest at the King's state funeral in Anuman on Monday and Syria declared three days of official mourning for the Jordanian Monarch, whose relations with Damascus were often strained.

Parliament approved the 69year-old Assad us the sole presidential candidate last month. after the ruling Boath Party deputies. There were no other

The more than 11,000 polling stations spread out across the country opened at 7:00 a.m. (0500 GMT) and are scheduled to close at 7:00 p.m. (1700 GMT).

Voting could be extended to 10:00 p.m. (2000 GMT), how-

Syrians aged 18 and over are eligible to vote and turnout was high early in the day in the capital, Damascus. The results are expected to be announced on

Voters are being given a vot-ing slip asking if they are "In favour of the People's Assembly candidate Hafez Assad for the post of President of the

A "Yes" vote goes in a green-coloured circle under-neath while a "No" vote goes in a grey-coloured box.

Mohammad Hazimi, 40. said he had marked his ballot with a drop of his own blood after pricking his thumb with a pin. "I wanted to say 'yes' with my blood because that is what is most precious," he said.

In the run-up to the referendum. Damascus and other cities have been festooned with flags, portraits of Assad and coloured lights, giving the country a festive atmosphere.

Voters honked their horns and sang patriotic songs as they

headed to polling booths here decorated with flowers, Syrian flags and portraits of Assad.

The Syrian media have been playing their part in the campaign, airing messages of sup-port for Assad from personali-ties from Syria, the Arab World and beyond.

"Syria Says 'Yes' to Our Leader Assad" was Wednesday's headline in the government newspaper Tishrin.

"Assad Forever," "Yes to the Master of the Country," say banners hanging from public buildings.

The estimated one million Syrians living in neighbouring Lebanon were also eligible to vote on Wednesday and headed in large numbers to polling stations opened across the

country.
Traffic jams developed outside the three voting centers set up in the Lebanese capital, Beirut, residents said.

Syrian soldiers, some of the 35,000-Syrian contingent deployed in Lebanon, fired occasional celebratory gunshots into the air along the Beirut seafront promenade.

Assad, who was born in northern Syria near the coastal town of Latakia in 1930, took power in November 1970. He was first elected president in February 1971, and reelected in 1978, 1985 and 1992.

His current term expires on

الحمد لله علىآلاته

A Jordanian woman holding a picture of late King Hussein waits for her turn outside the Zahran palace on Wednesday to offer her condolences to the grieving Royal family, After a day of pomp and ceremony for the state funeral of King Hussein, on Monday, ordinary Jordanians turned out in their thousands to offer their condolences (AFP

U.N. votes for conference on Israeli settlements

Despite Israeli and U.S. protests, the U.N. General Assembly has overwhelmingly approved a resolution calling for an international conference to enforce a ban on settlement activities in Israelioccupied territories.

The vote was 115-2 with five abstentions - Australia. Bahamas, Cameroon, Romania and Swaziland.

The resolution, which is not legally binding, says that Israel is constructing new settlements in Arab east Jerusalem and other lands the Israelis occupied in 1967, and that the constructions violate the Fourth Geneva Conven-

It calls for Switzerland, as depository of the 1949 convention, to convene a conference on July 15 in Geneva to consider measures to enforce its provisions "in the occupied Palestinian territory. including Jerusalem." The Palestinian U.N. observer. Nasser Al Kidwa, said the overwhelming vote had "great importance."

"We look forward to the convening of that conference on time. We look forward to the expected important results," he said.

But Switzerland's U.N.

observer, Jeno Staehelin, said his country could not play an active role in convening such a conference unless the signatories agree on measures to handle grave violations of the convention "wherever they occur." The convention bans the seizure of land by an occupying power — a provi-sion the Palestinians and their

supporters argue would ban settlement building. The Palestinians say Israeli settlements in the West Bank, Gaza and Arab east Jerusalem threaten to change the makeup of these areas, even as their future is being negotiated.

They point to a 6,500 Israeli settlement units planned in Jabal Abu Ghneim in Arab east Jerusalem, which they want as the capital of an independent Palestinian state. Israel claims all of Jerusalem as its capital.

Israel, a signatory to the Geneva Convention, does not recognise its application in the territory it occupied in the 1967 Mideast war. "Israel views the attempts to

convene a conference... as a distortion of international humanitarian law for the purpose of narrow political interests," Israeli U.N. Ambassador Dore Gold told the General Assembly

Israel has routinely ignored U.N. declarations regarding relations with the Arabs. This is the fourth time in 18

months that the General Assembly has called for the convening of a conference. Despite consultations with the signatories. Staehelin said many questions must be still be answered.

That is the main reason why the conference has not yet been able to take place," he said. Among the unanswered questions: Can such a meeting be convened by an international organisation or should the decision be taken by the signatories? What happens if one of the principle parties refuses to participate? How should decisions be

made on conducting the conference? Who should cover the cost? The emergency General Assembly session began Friday and was supposed to conclude Monday. But the final session was postponed until Tuesday to pay

tribute to King Hussein. During two days of speeches, speaker after speaker supported the Palestinians and demanded that Israel halt construction in contested areas and adhere to the peace agree-

Baghdad takes wait-and-see stand on King Abdullah

BAGHDAD (AFP) - Iraq. which did not comment officialhich aid too comment officially on the passing away of King Hussein, is taking a wait-and-see position on King Abdullah, diplomats said Wednesday,

"The Iraqis are waiting, they are observed are observed."

to see how the new King will act and get to know his positions," a high-ranking Baghdad-based diplomat said.

King Hussein's death was briefly announced by the Iraqi media with a small biography but without any commentary. Little-known Iraqi Vice President Taha Muhieddin Maruf was sent to Amman to attend the state funeral.

Hundreds of Iraqis and Arabs resident in Iraq, as well as members of the capital's diplomatic corps, descended on the Jordanian embassy in Baghdad to sign their names in the condolence book. Diplomats said the lack of attention given to the King's death by Baghdad was probably due to the fact that "information in Iraq is introverted."

"This cannot be seen as bostility, but a sort of indifference," the diplomat said. "Any other information on world events would have been treated with the same

But he said fraq had shown a "misplaced discretion" at the funeral, which was attended by most world leaders, including those, like Syrian President Hafez Assad, who had rocky relationships with Jordan.

There was a move towards solidarity and reconciliation," the diplomat said. Ties between Baghdad and

Amman have thawed in recent months, after crises in 1995 and 1998, with the signing of an economic pact in February. Iraqi Oil Minister Amer

Mohammad Rashed on Wednesday pledged to maintain Iraqi crude oil exports to Jordan in line with an agreement for 4.8 million tonnes over 1999 finalised in January.

Prior to the 1990-91 Gulf crisis. Jordan was one of Iraq's main trading partners. But trade collapsed when Iraq was placed under crippling U.N. sanctions for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. During a meeting on the side-

lines of King Hussein's funeral, King Abdullah assured the Iraqi vice president that he wanted to strengthen ties with Baghdad. He said his country "wanted to pursue bilateral relations and

examine ways of developing them in the interest of the two brotherly people," the official Iraqi news agency INA said. But in an interview published by the Arabic language daily Al Hayat on Saturday, before the

death of King Hussein, the new King pledged to continue "the traditional policy" of Jordan with Iraq. But he ruled out in present circumstances "a rehabilitation of the Iraqi regime."

Iraq did not react to these comments "so as not to provoke tension. Iraq wants to keep good ties with Jordan to avoid it moving towards the United States," a diplomat said.

"Iraq needs Jordan like Jordan needs Iraq," he added.

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Greece, Cyprus increasing tension'

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey on Wednesday accused Greece and Cyprus of increasing tension in the region under a joint defence doctrine the two countries signed in 1993. "Greeks and Greek Cypriots are involved in efforts to exacerbate tension through what they call a joint defence docume but which is actually a joint attack doctrine," a spokesman of the Turkish foreign ministry, Sermet Atacanli, told reporters in Ankara.

Sheikh wants marriage outside courts banned

CAIRO (AP) - The top Islamic cleric in Egypt is urg ing the government to ban weddings conducted outside the courts, saying traditional, or "orfi," marriages do not confer adequate protection on wives, a newspaper reported Wednesday. Sheikh Mohammad Sayed Tantawi, the Grand Sheikh of Al Azhar — the leading Islamic institute in the Sunni Muslim world — bas long refused to conduct traditional weddings, but his lecture at the Cairo International Book Fair on Tuesday night was the first time he has called for their prohibition.

Iraq calls for dialogue with Arabs

CAIRO (AP) — A senior Iraqi official was quoted on Wednesday as calling on Arab countries to begin a dialogue to ease strained relations, saying his country poses no threat to its neighbours. Vice President Taha Ma'arouf spoke to the London-based Asharq Al Awsat in an interview in Arnman, Jordan where he led the Iraqi delegation to King Hussein's funeral this week. "We call for the opening of a new page full of trust and cooperation instead of trading insults, accusations and enmiues, let us think of consolidating the Arab stand," Ma'arouf said.

'Arms probes in Iraq should be intrusive'

UNITED NATIONS (R) - The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has estimated it would cost \$10 million a year to make sure Iraq did not build a bomb and advocated intrusive inspections be part of monitoring activities. In a report to the Security Council circulated on Tuesday, the Vienna-based IAEA, responsible for in charge of eliminating Iraq's atomic arms programme, said it had "no indication" that Baghdad had nuclear-related equipment or other materials. But it could not say with certainty that nothing further existed.

Russian emigration to Israel jumps

TEL AVIV (AFP) - The number of Russians emigrating to Israel jumped at least 30 per cent during the past two months compared to the same period a year earlier, officials said Wednesday. According to figures compiled by the Jewish Agency which oversees immigration, 3,320 immigrants arrived by plane from Russia during December and January, compared to 2,220 a year earlier. An unknown number of Russians also arrived in Israel by sea during the same period, the

Israeli soldier hurt in S. Lebanon attack

MARJAYOUN (R) - An Israeli soldier was wounded when hizbolian guernilas shelled bositions around a Crusader castle in south Lebanon, security sources said. The sources said the soldier was injured at the castle which overlooks Arnoun, a town on the edge of Israel's occupation zone. In Jerusalem, an Israeli army statement confirmed the attack and said the soldier had been 'very lightly wounded" and was taken to bospital in Israel.

Don't fight army — Demirel

ANKARA (R) - Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, twice overthrown in army coups, has bluntly warned political parties jostling for position ahead of April elec-tions against crossing the powerful military. "If you fight with the military you may satisfy a handful of mad people but you will also antagonise the armed forces and you will be the loser," be told the Turkish Daily

PRAYER TIMES

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06:18	(Sunrise) Duh
11:50.	Dhuh
14:54	'As
17:21	Machrel
18:40	1sh

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh, Tel. 5920740 Assemblies of God Church Tel. St. Joseph Church Tel.4624590

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 4622366 Anglican Church 4624853/4624811. St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 4771751. Amman International Church

Tel. 5865897

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5688404 The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 5811295 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932

St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757 Church of the Annunciation TeL 4637440

Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138 Church of Presentation, Swei-Geh Tel. 5920146

The Uniate Catholic Church Tel. 4624757 English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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46280	152	
The	Armenian	Catholic
Chur	ch Tel. 47713	331
The	Armenian	Orthodox
Chun	ch Tel. 47752	261

WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Depart-

ment of Meteorology

Temperatures are expected to rise on Thursday with clouds appearing at different altijudes. Scattered showers are also expected and winds southeasterly moderate. On Friday, temperatures will dip in the afternoon with rainfall in various regions. In Aqaba, it will be cloudy, winds northerly moderate, and seas

Anıman	05/1
Aqaba	
Descrts	
Jordan Valley	10/2

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 14. Aqaba 20 Humidity readings: Amman 46 per cent, Aqaba 40 per

Following are the temperatures expected today in the following areas:

Ajloun	04
Jerash	06/
Um Qays	06
Madaba	06
Petra	06
Dead Sea	11

TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Mazen Nbali. 5350435 Dr. Abdul Majid Al Sha'ir_4391405 Dr. Hani Al Ahmad4394336 Dr. Fakher Bilbeisi 5522233

Firas Pharmacy5661912 Al Salam Pharmacy 4636730 Mayadah Pharmacy ...5537004 Ruko Al Dawa Pharmacy 5536169

Dr. Issam Al Salih ..(02)246858 Fou'ad Pharmacy (02)275360

Dr. Zuhour Al Qadi (05)906606 Palestine Pharmacy..(05)983562

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre.....4637111 Civil Defence Department 5661111 Civil Defence Immediate Res-.....4630341 Civil Defence Emergency.....199 Rescue Police 192, 4621111, 4637777 Fire Brigade......4617101 Blood Bank.... Highway Police.....5343402 Traffic olice..... _4896390 Public Security Dept....4630321 Hotel Complaints......5605800 Price Complaints.....5661176 Water & Sewarage: Complaints 4897467 Amman Municipality Com-Telephone Information (directory assistance) _____12(Central Amman Telephone Repairs4623101

Abdali Tel. Repairs......5661101 Jordan Television 4773111 Radio Jordan 477411) Water Authority5680100 J. Electricity Authority 5815615 Electric Power Co....4636381 RJ Flight Information 44-53200

HOSPITALS

Queen Alia Intl. Airport ...44-53200

AMMAN: The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery _____5921199 The Islamic, Abili5666131/7 Hussein Medical Centre...5856856 __4630195 Luzmila4644281/6 Khalidi Maternity....

Jobal Ammon Moternity....4642362 Malhas, J. Amman.4636140 Palestine, Shmeisani5607071 Shmeisani Hospital ____5607431 Jordan Hospital ____5607550 University Hospital5353414 Al-Muscher Hospital 5667227/9 Al-Ahli, Abdali5664164/6 Italian, Al-Muhajreen 4777101/3 Al-Bashir 4775111/26 Army, Marka4891611/15 Queen Alia Hospital 5157100
Arnal Hospital 5607155 Al Amal Cancer Centre .. 5353000

Zarra Govt Hospital 109/983323 Zarga National Hospital _1091900560 Iba Sina Hospital(09)986731 Al Hikma Modern Hospital (79)99(799()

IRBID: Princess Basma Hospital 1021275555 Roman Catholic Hospital (12)272275 Ibn Al Nafees Hospital ____(02)7101372_(02)7103101 Speciality Hospital ._____(02)7103100 AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)2014111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEENALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Reval Jordanian (RJ) information

department at the Queen Alia International Airport (44)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 44 (52700). Information on Royal Wings flights can be supplied on phone 4875201-5

ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

07.13	1 (N) ESSECTION
08:25	Bombay (RJ)
08:50	Dhahran. Riyadh (RJ)
09:30.	New Delhi 1RJ)
10:05	Beirut (RJ)
10:05	Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:15	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:45	Colombo (RJ)
16:25	London (RJ)
18:05	Kuwait (RJ)
18:05	Athens (RJ)
19:00	Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RI)
19:40	Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
	Lamaca (RJ)

Other Flights

15:15	Riyadh (SV)
14:05	Rome (AZ)
14:10	Sharigah (AH)
14:45	
15:55	Dubai (EK)
17:25	Muscat, Dubai (GF)
18:40	Beirut (ME)
19:05	Paris (AF)
20:25	
20:40	Cairo (MS)

_Moscow (SU)Amsterdam(KL) 04:10London (BA)

For Thursday 08:50 Actaba (arriving at QAIA) (RW) 09:35. Agaba tarriving at Marka Airport) (RW) 16:00...Aqaba (arriving at Marka Airport) (RW) 23:15 Tel Aviv (arriving at QAIAI (RW)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

00:25

For Friday 08:50 Aqaba (arriving at QAIA) (RW) 09:35. Aqaba (arriving at Marka Airportl (RW) 16:00...Aqaba tarriving at Marka Airport) (RW) 17:30 Gaza (arriving at QAIA) (RW) 18:40 Tel Aviv (arriving at

QALA) (RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (R.J) Flights
06:30 Beirut (RI)
10:35 .Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
11:00Shannon, Chicago (RI)
11.75 The Chicago (RI)
11:25 Tunis. Casablanca (RJ)
12:00Amsterdam, Paris (RI)
12:05 Kimmit Or r
Tar achan I cardon Dr.
12:15Athens (R)
THE PARTY OF THE P

Lamaca (RJ) .Jeddah (RJ) 00:10 .. Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

> Other Flights 06:35 Damascus, London (BA) 07:10Frankfurt (LH) 14:45Riyadh (SV) 15:00 ... Annabah, Algiers (AH) 15:30 ____Rome (AZ) 15:35Doha (QR) 17:00 .. Damascus, Dubai (EK) 18:15 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF) 20:00Beirut (ME) 21:10 Tel Aviv (LY) 21:40 Cairo (MS) 01:55 Moscow (SU) 02:15Amsterdam (KL) 04:45Alexandria (BA)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights For Thursday 08:30 Aqaba (from Marka Air-

(RW)

port) (RW) 19:45... Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW) 20:15 Tel Aviv (from Marka Airport) (RW) 21:00 Tel Aviv (from QAIA)

For Friday 08:30 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW) 13:30 Gaza (from Marka Airport)

16:15 Tel Aviv (from QAIA) (RW) 20:30 _Aqaba (from QAIA) (RW)

Cables of

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Her Majesty Queen Noor yesterday receives condolences from a fellow mourner at Zahran Palace.

Abdullah and the rest of the Royal family have received thousands of mourners

since the death of

King (AP photo)

Queen Noor, King



Cables of condolence continue to flow in |

received cables from the

President of the World

Council for Tourism and

Travel, the British Rolls

Royce Club, and Travel

Agents and Tour Opera-

tors in Britain, France and

Information Minister

Naser Judeh received a

cable of condolence from

President of the Federa-

tion of Arab News Agen-

The Iraqi National Accord (INA) issued a

statement expressing deep

sorrow and grief over the passing of King Hussein,

and conveyed their heart-

felt condolences to King

Abdullah, the Hashemite

family and the Jordanian

people. The INA's poliu-

cal bureau said "the pass-

ing of King Hussein was a

great shock to the Iraqi

people, who will never

forget his humanitarian

and noble feelings towards them, and his

efforts to ease their suffer-

ing."
The statement said the

Iraqis will not forget King

Hussein's call 10 maintain

the unity of Iraq and

cies Rafig Shallal.

Belgium.

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Abdullah Ben Hussein Wednesday received a cable from Amman governor Tala't Nawaiseh, pledging his allegiance to the King and vowing to rally behind his leadership to pursue the march of love and loyalty that the late King Hussein has started.

Monany 11-12

MAN WITH Arabs

e should be atrust a

ener .

Nawaiseh also sent a similar cable to HRH Crown Prince Hamzeh, pledging allegiance to him and wishing him success. Field Marshal Abdul

Hafez Mirai Kaabneh said the selection of HRH Prince Hamzeh as heir to the Throne, in implementation of the Royal desire of His Majesty King Hussein and with the blessing of the Hashemite Family Council, has received a hearry welcome by the Armed Forces personnel. Kaabneh reiterated the Armed Forces' loyalty and allegiance to the Hashemite Throne and pledge to follow in the firm path chartered by his

leadership.
Crown Prince Hamzah also received cables from Director of the General Intelligence Department (GID) Samih Battikhi. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Mar-

shal Abdul Hafez Mirai Kaabneh, Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Li. General Nasouh Muhieddin and Director of the Civil Defence Department (CDD) Major General Deeb Maani.

In his cable, Battikhi pledged the GID's allegiance and loyalty to the Hashemite Throne and praised the wise decision by King Abdullah, who selected Prince Hamzah as heir to the Throne after consulting the Hashemite Family Council.

"The clear and wise vision of King Abdullah in selecting Your Royal Highness as heir to the Throne gives Jordanians confidence and hope for a promising future. Bai-tikhi said in his cable. Lt. General Muhieddin

renewing the PSD personnel's allegiance to the Hashemite leadership. Muheiddin wished the Crown Prince success in shouldering bis responsi-

seni a similar cable.

bilities, under King Abdullah's leadership. Maj. Gen. Maani sent a similar cable, pledging the CDD's loyalty and allegiance to the Hashemite leadership, and wishing the Crown Prince success.

Minister of Tourism and establish a democratic Antiquities Agel Biltaji system in it, where all received cables of condo-Iraqis can live in security, lences from bis counterand tranquility. parts in Egypt, Palestine and Israel. He also

Lauding King Hussein's efforts to build modern Jordan and to restore Arab and Islamic solidarity, the INA statement said, "the King bas built modern Jordan and put it on the threshold of the 21st century, thus qualifying Jordan to occupy a unique status among the Middle East countries,"

The statement added, "King Hussein has been concerned about Arab and Islamic solidarity, thus winning the respect and appreciation of Arab and Muslim nations, as well as the world at large."

The statement said, "The number of leaders and dignitaries who auended the King's funeral is a testimony to the prominent status be bas enjoyed." The INA wished King

Abdullah success in leading Jordan towards more progress and prosperity, expressing confidence that King Abdullah will pursue his father's policy in further fostering Arab solidarity, establishing peace and defending human rights and respect for freedoms and human values."

Financial worries abate

Dinar market price remains steady...

By Mohammad Ben Hussein

AMMAN - Demand for the dol-Iar has declined fifty per cent since the beginning of this week while the Jordanian market price of the dollar has remained stable since the news of His Majesty King Hussein's death, money exchangers said Wednesday.

After the close of the first working day since a three-day public mourning period, moneychangers reported normal demand for the dollar, and said that on several occasions, Jordanians were selling their dollars.

Earlier this week, moneychangers and bankers feared a run on the dollar after unpromising news about King Hussein's health. Some moneychangers reported that demand was up, while bankers said that they had not noticed any unusual purchasing activity.

The market's closing price of the dollar on Wednesday ranged from 713-714 fils.

"The minute difference between the selling and buying price of the dollar is an indication of the market's stability," said Abdul Ghani Sadat, from an exchange company downtown

Earlier last year, when the King left the country for the United States for treatment of a non-Hodgkins lymphoma, which claimed his life on Sunday after a six-month hattle, Jordan witnessed a capital flight of approximately

\$400 million in a matter of days. "People last summer were unsure about the future of the country after the King's sudden

departure, which explains the panic buying," said Muti'a Kabar-iti, head of Foreign Exchange Commission.

In 1988 Jordan dinar witnessed the worst crash when the dinar collapsed in front of the dollar, losing almost half its value due to the inability of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) to meet the country's demand for hard currency. However, Jordanians were assured this week when promises of foreign aid to Jordan started raining down

from the international community. The American President Bill Clinton said he would request that Congress urgently grant \$300 million to Jordan. The United Arab Emirates also said it would deposit a yet-undisclosed amount of money in the CBJ to bolster confidence in the dinar.

According to bankers, the deposit ranges from \$250-\$400

The World Bank added its voice to the cborus of concern and said it is studying the possibility of extending new credits to Jordan, or giving the green light to creditor countries to reschedule Jordan

debts. Other countries also have promised to send aid, but did not specify the amount or the manner in which the aid will be extended.

According to Kabariti, by the beginning of next week, the dollar price should decline when banks open their doors after the official week-long mourning period.

He expects the Central Bank to continue providing unrestricted access to the dollar. The Central Bank bas reserved

around \$100 million in casb in

order to meet the market's demands. Jordan's foreign currency reserves stand at \$1.2 billion.

"People at the heginning were afraid that things could go wrong if the King died, but the transfer of power bs been very smooth, ensuring political as well as economic stability in the country." added

Kabariti. Nevertheless, Jordan's dinar lost around 10 per cent of its value in front of the shekel earlier this month in occupied Jerusalem and the West Bank, after international news agencies leaked reports about the King's deteriorating health, but bankers and exchangers blamed the phenomenon on a panic buying in the occupied areas, when Jordanians banks had closed last Friday for the Islamic

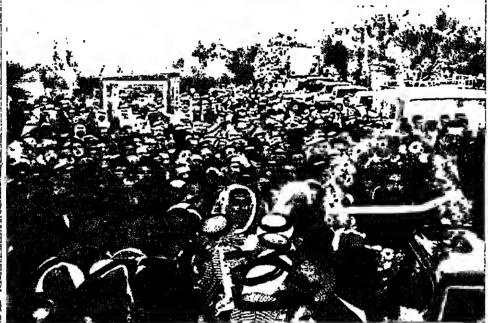
holiday. Meanwhile, the Amman Financial Market saw a decline in trading volume but later the price index regained around three per cent in the total sbare price index. According to one broker, who cannot be named according to

due to more "rational" buying. The broker expects that when the Amman Finanicial Market opens again on Saturday, the market will be active, with a greater emphasis on buying and a pursuant hike in

market regulations, the gain was

prices.
"The market will be active, but at the same time it will be selective," he said, referring to companies which deal directly with Iraq. "Those companies will have to find other markets to expand their activities in order to boost their prices in the market."

Jordanians flood streets to condole Royal Family



more than a kilometre in front of the Raghadan Palace, where His Majesty King Abdullah received condolences from mourning Jordanians (photo by Yousef Alan)

Men queued for

Her Majesty Queen Noor yesterday receives condolences from a fellow mourner at Zahran Palace. Queen Noor, King Abdullah and the rest of the Royal family have received thousands of mourners since the death of King (AP photo)





Abdullah yesterday shakes the hand of a mourner during the second day of condolence ceremonies at Raghadan Palace.

(Petra photo)

His Majesty King

...as financial aid bolsters confidence

By Dima Hamdan

AMMAN — Businessmen and economists Tuesday welcomed offers of new international aid to help boost Jordan's economic stability but said the money should be spent on water schemes and intensive labour projects.

Others said the country of 4.2 mil-lion people, saddled with a \$6.5 billion foreign debt, should focus on fighting endemic bureaucracy and on achieving economic self-suffi-

Many officials and diplomats say His Majesty King Abdullah, wbo took the reins of power after the death of his father, His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday, faces mounting economic woes worsened by soaring poverty, unemployment and a looming water crisis.

He bas won overwhelming pledges of economic support from Washington, Britain, Japan, the oilrich Gulf Arab states and world institutions sucb as International Monetary Fund and the World Bank - all keen to maintain the country's stability.

However, Jordanian businessmen and economists said focus should be on easing the burden of foreign debt in a country where one in five citizens is living below the poverty line and where unemployment officially stands at 16 per cent and unofficially at up to 27 per cent.

They said officials should campaign more aggressively for debt swaps, debt forgiveness and debt

rescheduling in addition to facilitating bilateral

Pledges of economic aid were mostly declared on Sunday and on Monday, when King Hussein's body was laid to rest amid a galaxy of 50 world leaders, prime ministers and top officials who streamed into Jordan to pay last respects.

Jordan bas for years lobbied for

debt forgiveness, however, some countries like Japan cannot call off the debts because it is against their regulations. Japan is Jordan's top donor, its loans since 1990 are estimated at \$1 billion. "This money is important 'for

financial, political, and moral reasons," said economist Fahed Al Fanek. "It proves that we are not alone at difficult times; and that we have the support of all nations espe-cially the United States and Arab nations."

While some economists bad some reservations on additional loans on the grounds they would further swell the foreign debt, most of them agreed the bulk of aid should go on finding short- and long-term solu-tions for the water problem.

"Water is a top priority," said

Yusuf Mansour, head of competitiveness unit at the Planning Min-

"We must guarantee good, clean drinking water for our citizens, then we have to work on desalination of the water, which is a big project, because we need it for the future."

Jordan has long been suffering from water sbortages. The problem worsened last July when the quality of domestic water deteriorated dramatically, forcing the government to halt supplies for over four weeks. The then-water minister, Munther Haddadin, bad to resign.

Commercial and labour-intensive projects should be the country's second economic priority, experts

"We need to invest in productive infrastructure projects and on repaying our debts," added Fanek. Mansour also stressed the need to spend on vocational training and

modernising the labour force.
"I'm really concerned with getting people to do more and to create better workers. We need technicians and plumbers, but we must improve their qualifications."

However, some businessmen warned that additional loans might not necessarily belp to boost Jordan's economy and insisted that debt forgiveness was more essen-

"We don't need more loans, we must write off our debts first," said Hamdi Tabba'a, chairman of the Jordan Businessmen's Association and former trade minister.

He said additional aid would swell the overall debt and future repayments.

Taxes are the main burden on Jordan because we need to pay our debts. At the same time, the government knows that it cannot impose more (direct and in-direct the population," added Tabba'a. "Eliminating debts would strengthen the dinar."

"Jordan must learn how to manage its economy in a different way. The new king knows that Jordan should prepare itself to a new stage and we must set priorities." However, Fanek disagreed.

He argued that additional loans would not necessarily increase the debt volume.

"If we invest money in commercial projects and build more factories then we can repay all our debts because the economy will grow. We can have new funds without calling off the debts," Fanek told the Jordan Times.

On the other band, Tabba'a asserted that Jordan should be "more cau-

We should not get more loans if we do not have feasibility studies for the projects in which we are

investing." he said. Alternatively, Tabba'a suggested establishing joint ventures with lending countries.

"If these countries create joint ventures with us, it means that they believe in Jordan, in the regime and in the potentials of the economy."

Cabinet praises international community, pledges to maintain Jordan's high standing

AMMAN — (Petra) The ty, which were created Cabinet on Wednesday held a session to discuss the international gather-ing Jordan recently witnessed when Arab and international delegations attended the funeral of His Majesty King Hus-

sein.

In its meeting, the Council of Minister, headed by Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh, praised the Arab and stands, international stressing that Jordan will maintain its distinguished and good relawith the international communiby King Hussein. The Cabinet also

reviewed the prime minister's bilateral meetings with beads and members of the delegations. Meanwhile Tarawneh received cables of con-

dolence from the following countries, organisations and dignitaries: Palestinian National President Autbority Yasser Arafat, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, the Dutch prime minister, the Spanish prime minister, the prime minister of Mauritius, the prime minister

tralian prime minister, Austrian federal counsellor, Kuwaiti Defence Minister and Vice-President of the Council of Ministers Sheikh Salem Sabah, Moroccan Prime Minister Abdul Rahman Yousfi, the Swedish prime minister, Omani Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Ben Mahmoud AI Saeed, the Greek prime minister, Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jasem Ben Jaber Al Thani, Egypt's Vice-

President of the Al

of Italy, the Turkish

prime minister, the Aus-

Umah Party Abdullatif Abu Heif, the Arab City Organisation Secretary General Abdul Aziz Yousef Adsani, the president of the International Union of Red Cross and Red Crescent, General Manager of the Arab Fund for Economic and Development Abdullatif Yousef Al Hamad and the Syrian former Ssupply and Trade Minister Hassan

RAMBOUILLET, France (AP) — Despite the American mediator's report of progress at Kosovo peace talks, ethnic Albanian rebels and rival Serbs demanded several important cbanges Wednesday to a U.S.-sponsored plan.

The two delegations remained far from any agreement after three full days of talks at the 14thcentury French chateau where they are meeting.

Serb-led Yugoslavia was demanding a formal pledge to keep the country's borders intact, and Albanian negotiators were calling for a referendum on independence, an immediate ceasefire and North Atlantic Organisation (NATO) guarantees for the eventual interim settlement.

Wednesday, the rebel ethnic Albanian Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) listed its demands, saying it would not give up independence for the province where more than 2,000 people have died and hundreds of thousands left homeless in a year of fighting.

In the statement, distributed to the ethnic Albanian media in Kosovo, the KLA also demanded a formal ceasefire be signed with the Serb side and guaranteed hy a third party. The KLA called the demand "funda-

The Serb government considers the KLA terrorists, and has refused to sign a ceasefire because that would amount to a de facto recognition of the KLA. Despite claims of

progress Tuesday by chief U.S. mediator Christopher Hill, sources close to the delegations said the two sides had not agreed on a single word of the peace

the mediators, appears to mean the delegations are actively studying the text of the proposal.

"This is not easy, and frankly it's not a lot of fun... but we are making progress," said Hill, who heads the team of three mediators shuttling between Serb and ethnic Alhanian delegations. The two sides are staying on different floors and have not met face-to-face.

The KLA rebels, who have five members on the ethnic Albanian delegation. said further demands include release of all political prisoners held in Kosovo or free return to the province of those sentenced

in absentia. Another request was to allow an investigation of alleged war crimes in Kosovo by the U.N. tribunal in The Hague,

our legitimate right to recognise the independence of Kosovo through a clear and indisputable formulation with fixed dates and with a distinct mechanism which will secure Kosovo to become independent," said the statement.

"The Albanian delegation in the Rambouillet meeting is not going to give up its demand for independence."

The Serbian side has also filed a series of complaints about the peace plan, which was handed to them when negotiations began Sunday. sources close to the delegation said.

The Serbs said the plan virtually separates Kosovo. their medieval heartland, from Serbia. They want the ethnic Albanian delegation to publicly sign their pledge that Kosovo will not become independent.

Belgrade's state-run Politika daily, which is close to hard-line Yugoslav President Slohodan Milosevic. said in a commentary Wednesday that "the key point of the current stage of negotiating is that Kosovo remains part of Serbia and Yugoslavia."

Under the plan, Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority would be given virtual autonomy during an interim period of at least three years. But the province

Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic (right) smiles while listening to Greek Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos prior to talks in Belgrade. Pangalos said Tuesday that in any kind of agreement it be clearly specified that independence for Kosovo is to be excluded now and in the future (Reuters photo) deployment is being put off ties have agreed to release would remain part of Serb-

led Yugoslavia. NATO generals are working on plans to dispatch 25.000-30,000 troops to Kosovo. including up to 4,000 Americans. enforce the peace agree-

Russia strongly opposes the NATO threat of force, A Western military source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Tuesday that discussion of a NATO

until the end of the talks to avoid a diplomatic dispute with the Russians. Foreign

Yugoslav Minister Zivadin Jovanovic said in Belgrade that autonomy for Kosovo would be no problem. But he said "under no condition" would peacekeeping troops he allowed there. Wednesday,

spokesman for international verifiers said Serb authori-

all 40 bodies of ethnic Albanians slain in January in the Racak massacre. which paved the way for the current peace talks.

The bodies have remained unburied because of a struggle between Serbs try-ing to avoid the spectacle of a highly publicised mass funeral and ethnic Albanian politicians seeking to draw attention to what they say

Primakov, party chiefs to discuss Kremlin non-aggression pact

Russian Premier Yevgeny Primakov was to bold talks with political leaders Wednesday on a nonaggression pact between parliament and the Kremlin, under which President Boris Yeltsin would cede 2000.

due to get underway behind closed doors around 5:00 p.m. (1400 GMT), but the accord was already facing opposition from leftists and liberals.

Communist Party boss Gennady Zyuganov said his bloc, the largest in parliament, would put forward its own alternative proposals at the meeting.

Acceptance of the current draft would be tantamount to "acting in the tragicomedies staged by President Yeltsin." he said.

Printakov launched his surprise initiative last month saying the pact would provide Russia with a measure of political stability in the run-up to legisla- of the leftist People's Power

tive elections due in December.

Analysts suggested the position...as he mulls al as it stood. whether to contest the pres-idency in elections due, in intelligent and a good diplo-

The talks with party chiefs Nikolai Bordyuzha said the tions must be resolved in the state Duma lower president had accepted the through compromise, house of parliament were draft accord — under which "We cannot accept the Russian leader would agree not to dismiss parliament or the premier — as a basis for negotiations.

In exchange parliament would drop attempts to amend the 1993 constitution, which was tailor-made for Yeltsin and hands the head of state sweeping powers at the expense of the legislature.

The current text, approved by Russia's influential Security Council last week. did not however include Primakov's original suggestion that lawmaker's drop impeachment proceedings against Yeltsin as a quid pro

Nikolai Ryzhkov, leader

group in the Duma, told the private NTV television station earlier that parliamenmove was an attempt by tary leaders were unlikely to Primakov to protect his own approve the current propos-

mat, and be understands Yeltsin's chief of staff very well that such ques-

> per cent the viewpoint we have received from the president," be said, predicting "a lot of work" ahead. Zyuganov insisted that

both houses of parliament sbould vote on five impeachment articles under preparation against Yeltsin. and amendments to the constitution which would redistribute some of the head of state's vast powers.

Sergei Ivanenko, deputy head of the liberal Yabloko faction, dismissed the proposed peace pact as "a useless, rather than harmful document."

Constitutional reform was a major plank in the party's election platform, he told the Interfax news agency.

Australia presses E. Timor to stay with Indonesia

Prime Minister John Howard has urged East Timor to remain part of Indonesia, saying independence would heighten the threat of instability.

Howard came under attack from the opposition for his comments late Tuesday, which came amidst reports of new troubles in the neighbouring former Portuguese colony.

There would be an economic and strategic vulnerability, there would be the potential for ongoing tension between Indonesia and the independent East Timor of the type that mightn't exist if East Timor were an autonomous part of Indonesia." Howard said.

"I want to see continued diplomatic effort invested, not only by Australia but by others to try and persuade the Indonesians and the East Timorese of the virtues of the preference I've

He told ABC television he hoped that if autonomy was not possible the transition to independence would be as orderly as

East Timor, which was invaded by Indonesia in 1975, has returned to the international spotlight following Indonesia's announcement that it would consider independence for the territory if an autonomy offer was rejected.

The United Nations and most nations do not recognise Indonesian sovereignty. 'Australia is one of the few countries that does recognise Indonesia's claim to the territory, where 200,000 people are estimated by independent observers to have died in violence and from starvation and illness since

Pro-Indonesian armed militia are still being accused of terrorising pro-independence East

Australian opposition foreign affairs spokesman Laurie Brereton said Howard's message sent a disturbing signal to pro-integrationist militia groups seeking to block East Timorese self-determination.

"Mr. Howard's confirmation that the full weight of Australian diplomacy is being marshalled to support East Timor's continued incorporation within Indonesian can only give encouragement to paramilitary thugs who are seeking to block East Timorese self-determina-

tion," Brereton said. "They will take heart both from what Mr. Howard said, and from what he chose not to say." With daily reports of rising violence by pro-integrationist forces, the Howard government should also give a clear in-principle commitment for Australian participation in a United Nations monitoring force for East Timor,

Howard would not discuss the question of a U.N. force.

Howard was also accused by East Timorese independence campaigners of supporting continued Indonesian oppression in the territory to protect Australia's access to cheap oil in the Timor Gap.

"It is obvious that he will continue to persist in his callous and inhumane policy of supporting the Indonesian dictatorship because he wants Timor's oil at a cheap price," the Campaign for an Independent East Timor

Campaign Andrew Alcock said Indonesia had recently stepped up the arming and training of anti-independence militias and pleas for their disbandment had been ignored. "Sadly the world community

is still not prepared to put a halt to the criminal brutality being committed in East Timor by the Habibie regime." he said.

Over 300 missing after ship sinks in Indonesian waters

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) --Rescue teams in Indonesia searched Wednesday for as many as 312 people who were on board a passenger ship that sank in stormy seas between Borneo and Sumatra

So far, 19 people have been rescued. But hopes of finding more survivors were fading four days after the apparent accident took

The newspaper Kompas reported the Harta Rimba, with 325 passengers and a crew of seven, took on water in bad weather and sank after being swamped by big waves Saturday night off Tambelan Island, about 800 kilometres north

of Jakarta, Indonesia's capital. Officials on nearby Riau Island said nine people were rescued Sunday and another 10 were picked up Tuesday. One body was

also found. The rest were missing. Navy Sgr. Mardi said a search was being conducted Wednesday by an Indonesian warship and one

"We haven't made any progress on the rescue. So far only 20 passengers including crew were found and one was dead," said search and

rescue official Mentereng Sakti in a telephone interview.

"Around midnight, had weather and big waves came, then the ship started sinking," Kompas quoted the ship's captain, Hermanto, as

Hermanto and several other survivors were rescued by a passing cargo ship.

He said the Harta Rimba, a 30metre long wooden ship, departed from Kuala Sumbas on the west coast of Borneo early Saturday morning for Pekanbaru on Sumatra.

The official Antara news agency said the vessel was also carrying a cargo of timber.

Hermanto said he distributed 200 life jackets to those on board after the ship started to fill with water Others were ordered to cling to blocks of wood and drums to stay afloat.

It was not immediately clear how far the ship was from land when it

Indonesia is made up of more than 13,000 islands and relies heavily of sea transport. However, passengers and cargo vessels are often poorly maintained and overloaded.

Anwar gagged as Malaysian judge orders media blackout

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) ---The judge in the trial of ousted Malaysian deputy premier Anwar Ibrahim ordered a media blackout Wednesday on remarks allegedly made by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and former police chief Rahim Noor.

The ruling followed Anwar's detailed morning testimony on circumstances surrounding his dismissal by Mahathir in September, including two separate meetings with the prime minister and the police chief.

"Pending proof of their statements, there should be no publication of the statements made by the two persons," Justice Augustine Paul rold the court as the corruption trial resumed after the daily lunch break of

almost two hours. Justice Paul later said his ruling also covered Anwar's "conversations" with Mahathir and Rahim, "in particular alleged statements made by the prime minister and the IGP (inspector

general of police)." He ordered an additional blackout on allegations Anwar made against

International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz "Please take note that the

statement on Rafidah Aziz is not to be published." he said. prompting a question from lead defence counsel Raja Aziz

"I thought it was only state-ments related to the prime minister and the IGP," he said. Anwar himself then interjected. "It is my personal knowl-

edge and I have documents signed by Gani Patail," he said. referring to senior deputy public prosecutor Abdul Guni Patail, who has been leading the case against Anwar. But Justice Paul dismissed

Anwar's objections. "That is documentary hearsay," he said, indicating indirect evidence would not be

A lawyer for the prosecution team told AFP "there's no basis for the comments unless you are going to call them" as witnesses in the marathon trial which started in early November. Anwar "must have some basis to say that," he added.

Anwar, 51, is on trial on four

charges of corruption alleging minister's office." he said before he abused his position to get police to cover up sexual misconduct allegations against him. He also faces a fifth corruption charge and five counts of

During the morning session, Anwar gave accounts of at least 10 meetings with Mahathir from the end of June last year and offered graphic testimony on the relationship between the two from early August. He also gave details of their meeting on Sept. 2 when he was fired.

Attorney-General Mohtar Abdullah, who has been leading the prosecution team himself since Anwar took the witness stand Monday, objected that Anwar was raising the issue of a political plot to oust him.

But Justice Paul, who ruled Tuesday that any evidence of a political conspiracy was "irrelevant," overruled the objection.

Anwar said that Mahathir's closest ally, Dairn Zainuddin, told him on Aug. 12 last year that the attorney general was considering charges against

"I went straight to the prime

giving an account of the meeting, prompting an objection from the prosecution.

Anwar then interjected. "This is the truth, you will be very happy to hear," he said, prompting cheering and clapping from his relatives in the courtroom. Justice Paul warned the crowd to calm down, saying:

theatre may leave and clap out-Anwar also gave a detailed account of his separate meeting with the police chief in late August, adding that he was

"Anybody who believes this is a

"shocked" by the outcome, "I do not know what to do with my defence because they are so interrelated. The police conspiracy cannot stand alone. I

am helpless." Anwar added before Justice Paul asked defence lawyers to "control their client." Anwar also described his arrest on Sept. 20, when he was assaulted 'Gestapo-style' by police before his first court

appearance with a black eye.

Mahathir ordered an inquiry

into the beating last month.

Washington to help set up human-rights observatory in Colombia

NEWS IN BRIEF

BOGOTA (AFP) — The United States will help set up a human rights observatory in Colombia to track violations and draft laws and policies protecting fundamental rights, Vice President Gustavo Bell said. The observatory, which the United States will fund through the International Cooperation Agency, will be the first of several human rights initiatives to get U.S. backing in Colombia. Bell said after meeting here Tuesday with U.S. Ambassador Curus Karıman. 'Our goal is to map human rights violations in Colombia, determine how and where they occur, so the government can craft policies that better target the root causes.

Bell said. He said the United States would also finance a seminar on military justice in which U.S. legal experts would impart their experience in the field to their Colombian comterparts. The vice president warned that despite the cooperation, the upcoming U.S. government report on the state of human rights around the world would likely be 'very criti-

Beijing mayor resigns, ending reshuffle after huge graft scandal

BEIJING (AFP) — Beijing mayor Jia Qinglin resigned Wednesday to make way for his new deputy and complete a major reshuffle in the capital's government that was prompted by a \$2.2 billion graft scandal in 1995. Jia, 58, bowed out in favour of 56-year-old Liu Qi, who became executive vicemayor in April last year in preparation for the move. Jia himself maintains the more powerful position of Beijing party secretary, and his resignation completes a major reshuffle in the capital's power structure after a purge in the wake of the 1995 graft scandal involving then-party secretary Chen Nitong and then-mayor Li Qiyan. The Beijing government will focus on further emancipating minds, logical decisionmaking and maintaining a clean and honest government," new mayor Liu Qi told the official Xinhua news agency. Major scandal broke in Beijing in early 1995 when a deputy mayor who was being investigated for corruption committed sincide. Within two weeks, party secretary Chen Xitong was fired from the post and the following year, mayor Li Qiyan was forced to resign. The scandal involved a pyramid investment scheme, the Capital Iron and Steel Works and kickbacks on construction deals. According to Beijing officials, the capital lost \$2.2 billion from its coffers. New mayor Liu Qi was born in eastern Jiangsu province and was minister of metallurgy until March 1998 when the ministry was disbanded and he was moved to executive vice-mayor of

Zimbabwe riot police stop student demonstration

HARARE (R) - Zimbabwean riot police fired tear gas Wednesday to prevent university students demonstrating in the capital amid a deepening political crisis. Thousands of students later gathered on the University of Harare campus and police units kept vigil outside the college gates, witnesses said. Police were also on guard at strategic points in central Harare. Students said they wanted to protest over President Robert Mugabe's criticism of judges who had urged him to restate his government's commitment to the rule of law. They said they were also angry over Zimbabwe's involvement in the war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the arrest of journalists, alleged economic mismanagement and delays in payment of grants. Mugabe last week plunged the country into a constitutional crisis when he repuowe's highest court, which had a reaffirm his government's respect for courts. The request from the supreme court judges followed the army's failure to abide by three court orders to release detained reporters. Mugabe accused the courts of meddling in politics and urged

Lovelorn albatross falls hard for decoy, gets cold shoulder

TOKYO (AP) — In the dating game, persistence often pays off. But Deko, a 5-year-old albatross on an island south of Tokyo, bas set himself an impossible goal. For two years he has been trying to woo what he believes to be the love of his life. He's built her fancy nests, fought off rival suitors, and spent countless days standing faithfully by her side. But Deko, it seems, is kind of a dodo. His one-and-only is a man-made decoy and despite the blank stare and wooden personality, be still hasn't caught on. The decoy is one of nearly 100 placed on the Izu islands, 600 kilometres south of Tokyo, to attract endangered albatrosses and encourage them to breed, a spokeswoman for the Yamashina Institute of Ornithology in Chiba prefecture (state) said Wednesday. We hope Deko will fall in love with a real albatross but he usually just ignores them and sometimes even drives them away," institute researcher Fumio Sato wrote in a recent newsletter. Researchers at the institute have also set up speakers on the islands to broadcast albatross mating calls. The experiment, begun in 1991, has been successful in attracting albatrosses to land on the islands and mingle with other birds. A few have even mated and produced offspring. The decoys were designed to be very life-like, but maybe too much so for Deko. His unrequited love was revealed to scientists by surveillance cameras on the island. Sato worries the hird's infaruation with the decoy is keeping him from meeting a mate. "He seems to have no desire to date real hirds," Sato observed.

12 dead in French avalanche

CHAMONIX, France (AFP) - Twelve people were killed after an avalanche swept over some 20 chalets in a French Alpine village near here, officials said in the latest toll issued Wednesday. Rescuers found two more dead amid the debris and snow from Tuesday's avalanche, up from a previous toll of 10 dead. A wall of snow some six metres high and 200 metres wide swept down a mountainside, crossing a river before climbing up the opposite hillside and crashing into the cluster of chalets in the village of Tour. Many of the homes were pulverised.

Tainted liquor kills 11 in southern India

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Tainted liquor killed 11 people in a village in southern India Wednesday and landed 14 others in the hospital, a domestic news agency reported. The dead included 10 men and a woman, who died in Puttalur village in Tamil Nadu state after consuming a local brew, Press Trust of India quoted police as saying. Seven local police officers were suspended Wednesday pending an investigation into the deaths, the news agency reported. It did not describe the charges against the officers. Liquor poisonings occur frequently in India. Unauthorised manufacturers mix methyl alcohol with their homemade brew to give it more punch, but too much can affect the nervous system, causing blindness or death.

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Jordan Times, Thursday-Friday, February 11-12, 1999 5



Remains of the helicopter burn down at the top of the building in central business district of Cape Town. Four people died in the crash of the belicopter which carried aircondition equipment (AFP photo)

Helicopter crashes into Cape Town building

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) - A helicopter crashed onto the roof of a building opposite a luxury hotel in the centre of Cape Town Wednesday morning, and four people aboard were killed.

The chopper had just lowered an air conditioner onto the roof of the office building and was lifting off at about 6:30 a.m. when a rotor struck a billboard, said police spokesman Capt Mark

exploded into a fireball, killing all four aboard, he said.

Romburgh said parts of the helicopter flew off and struck the hotel, seriously damaging an unoccupied room and causing minor damage to another room. The occupant there suffered no injuries.

Louis Vosion, an amateur photographer and friend of the pilot, was in the hotel taking pictures of the operation. He said the accident occurred as the crew was preparing to lower the air conditioning equip-

ment on a neighbouring building. "The guy made a 90 degree turn to the left, whereby he was going to position himself where he would slowly drop the unit," Vosloo said.

"At that moment, I realised the tail rotor was going to hit the advertising board. That was a very horrific thought because I could do

"As be hit the advertising board, the tail rotor snapped," he said. "The fuselage of the helicopter

plummeted to the ground. As it hit the top of the building, there was a big fireball." Vosloo said.

The seven-story, green and white building was across the street from the Cape Sun InterContinental, one of the city's major hotels.

The building was on Strand Street, one of the city's main thoroughfares in a commercial area television footage showed the blackened roof of the building with smoke rising from the wreckage.

Sri Lankan soldiers get 10 years over disappearance of 31 students

COLOMBO (AFP) - A Sri Lankan court Wednesday handed down 10 year jail terms to six soldiers and a school principal for abducting 31 teenage students who disappeared nine years ago, court officials said. The trial which attracted attention

from international human rights groups lasted three years.

High Coun judge Chandradasa Nanayakkara, while sentencing the guilty, criticised both investigators

An army brigadier who was implicated in the case was set free following lack of evidence and the judge criticised the police Criminal Investigations Department (CID) for trying to protect unnamed people.

The case was heard at the southern town of Ramapura, 100 kilometres south-east of here, following the disappearance of 31 students from the southern town of Embilipitiva in

and lawyers for mishandling the case. 1990. The victims, all 15-year-old boys from the Central College at Embilipitiya, were presumed killed when the army detention centre where they were being held was suddenly shut down in 1990.

The children were among 48 seized by the army during a crack down against anti-government Sinhalese People's Liberation Front or the JVP but they had nothing to do with politics or the rebels, relatives said.

The popular belief is that the military was led by the Central College principal to believe that the students were JVP activists because they teased his son about his love affair with another student. The principal was also given a 10-year sentence by the High Court Wednesday. International human rights organisations have singled out the case to demand prosecution and punishment of those responsible for the killings.

Myanmar government deplores U.S., British boycott of heroin conference

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)

 The government of Myanmar expressed regret Wednesday that the United States and Britain will not be sending representatives to an international conference on the heroin trade to be held in the Myanmar capital at the end of the month.

A Myanmar government news release received in Bangkok said the two Western nations "bear a special responsibility to work with the rest of the international community" because as major markets for heroin they fuel the international drug trade.

The U.S. bas heen sharply critical of Myanmar's military regime, alleging it has failed to make serious efforts to shut down the Southeast Asian country's massive drug industry.

Myanmar, also known as Burma, is believed to be the world's biggest producer of heroin, though some estimates put Afghanistan ahead of it.

Washington also applies a broad range of sanctions against Myanmar, including limits on official contacts, to show disapproval of the regime's poor human rights record and failure to turn over power to an elected government.

The conference on heroin production and trafficking, to be held in Yangon from Feh. 23-26, is being organised by Interpol, the Lyon, France-based international organisation that serves as a clearinghouse for the exchange of information between national police agencies.

The international drug trade is an urgent problem which needs to be addressed in a spirit of mutual cooperation by the entire world community," said the Myanmar government state-

It said the United States and Britain have huge markets for heroin which "fuel a glohal narcotics trade many countries in the developing world, including

Myanmar." "The Government of Myanmar ... urges them to put politics aside, for the sake of the millions of people around the world whose

lives are threatened by the

drug trade," it said. Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark and Italy have also reportedly decided to boycott the conference. All are members of the European Union, which has a position similar to that held by the U.S. regarding

Myanmar's military gov-

ernment. The Australia Burma Council, a group opposed to Yangon regime. Wednesday issued a statement calling on Australia to also boycott the heroin con-

ference. The statement said the group had sent a letter to Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer saying Australia's presence "would

which threatens to infect lend legitimacy to the (Myanmar) regime."

"Australia's attendance and support of this conference will be an obnoxious admission of a softening of national policy and will bring no good to the people of Burma nor will it aid us in our bid to have a drugfree society," said the statement from the Australia-

based group. International experts differ on the seriousness of the Myanmar government's anti-drug efforts, which are publicised extensively in its state-controlled press.

It has seized increasing quantities of beroin and opium in recent years, but some experts suggest that middle-ranking officers take money to turn a hlind eye to the trade.

They also point out that a number of prominent former drug dealers who have turned themselves in have been allowed to freely invest profits from their

Officials are particularly

worried about social stability

this year because of a string of

including the 10th anniver-

sary of the June 4 Tiananmen

Square massacre and the 50th

anniversary of the founding

Lu said local authorities

would be more "active and

prudent" in attending to the

China was expected to

intensify a crackdown on cor-

ruption to restore the image of

the Communist Party, Lu

of the People's Republic.

grievances of peasants.

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China reports 2,500 blasts in 1998 crime wave

BELJING (R) — An average of nine explosions rocked China each day last year as part of a growing crime wave, the government's top thinktank said in a report seen Wednesday.

Police investigated 1.35 million crime cases in the first nine months of 1998, up 22 per cent over the previous year, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences said in its annual White Paper on social issues.

Those cases included 2,500 blasts, an increase of nine per cent, the report said. It gave no details about the explo-

Murder cases jumped 5.8 per cent year-on-year to

Police and state media have confirmed at least seven bombings this year. Thirtythree people were killed and more than 100 injured.

The report blamed rising crime on johlessness, widening income disparities and anger at rampant corruption.

By last September, there were 10.7 million "xia gang" workers, or workers laid off from money-losing stateowned enterprises but who still receive partial pay the report said.

There were also 170 million surplus rural workers.

Their sense of loss is the strongest in the entire society," said sociologist Lu Jianhua, one of the authors of the White Paper.

A 1998 survey of about 2,300 urban and rural residents in 22 provinces showed that corruption was the top concern of 65.2 per cent of respondents, the report said.

The average actual income anti-crime campaign, he said of rural residents grew four per cent in 1998 compared with 4.6 per cent in 1997, it said. The rural-urban income ratio rose to 1:2.6 last year from 1:2.46 in 1997.

Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin bighlighted his worries over social unrest in December when he urged officials to "nip in the bud" any threats to stability.

A survey conducted last year showed that on a scale of one to five the sense of security felt by residents slipped to 3.42 in 1998 from 3.57 in 1997. Five was high, one low.

'Political stability will become the government's top theme of consideration in 1999." Lu said. Joblessness would remain

an acute problem, and the

government would step up an

The grip of the Communist Party is faltering in the coun-

tryside, home to 900 million Chinese, or three-quarters of the population. Leaders have warned that corruption threatens Communist rule.

AU NOM DU GROUPE SUEZ LYONNAISE DES EAUX

LE DIRECTEUR REGIONAL DU DEVELOPPEMENT MOYEN ORIENT/AFRIQUE DU NORD

FAIT PART A SA MAJESTE LE ROI ABDULLAH A LA FAMILLE ROYALE HACHEMITE ET AU PEUPLE JORDANIEN

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PAIX A SON AME

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Unity and continuity

JORDANIANS HAVE many reasons to turn out in the hundreds of thousands to offer condolences to His Majesty King Abdullah and the Royal family over the death of His Majesty King Hussein. First and foremost is the love and affection that they had for the late King. He was not only their heloved leader but their father and brother and his loss was a loss for every one of them. And secondly on this sorrowful occasion they reiterated their allegiance to the Hashemite Throne, the symbol of the Kingdom's unity, stability and continuity, in the face of mounting speculation in the foreign press about the country's future and its security and stability. Appearing in such great numbers as they did at the Royal Court, Jordanians, whether of East Bank or Palestinian origin, demonstrated to every sceptic that Jordan is not about to turn against itself or allow anyone to meddle in its internal affairs.

And to quell any predictions about divisions within the Royal family, HRH Prince Hassan wrote to King Abdullah pledging allegiance and support to the new Hashemite King. Jordanians, whether royals or ordinary people, surely have their differences over how to manage their affairs. But these can now wait. At the moment, what is important is to show the global community that they are, as King Hussein taught them to be, one united family behind their King.

After the mourning is over, the people expect their King to start his consultations with his advisors and subjects to start the path they will follow in faithfulness to King Hussein's legacy and in a manner that hefits his Jordanians' amhitions.

Jordanians, leaders and the led, recognise that there is a great deal that should he accomplished for their Kingdom and its Arah Nation. The achievement of their goals and aspirations will thus secure the country its rightful place among the peoples and nations of Earth.

The late King, may God bless his soul, had said that he wanted Jordan to he a model for the Arah World. That, we Jordanians must strive to accomplish hecause it is the only way to honour his legacy.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Dustour's Oreib Rintawi said that reponers are no longer focusing on the possibility of instability in Jordan, nor are analysts speculating over the transference of power as everything went smoothly in accordance with the Constitution. Nowadays' questions focus on the "post-Al Hussein era." upcoming challenges, the new leadership's duties and how it will fill the gap, he said and added that the answer to all these questions is continuity. Deepening the achievements and meaning of democracy, national unity, economy and combating poverty and unemployment is the answer, said Rintawi. Jordan can exploit all means of national, regional and international solidarity, which the country witnessed recently, to step bravely towards overcoming many issues that have arisen in recent years. This will reclaim confidence between citizens and the state institutions, stabilise democracy, renew hope of fighting corruption and administrative incompetence, he said. The Kingdom can liberally reconsider its policies and relations with Israel by keeping the peace with it, and at the same time keeping its unlimited support for Palestinian refugees its well as strengthening des with Arab hrothers. Rintawi said.

Al Dustour's Jihad Momani said Jordan's relations with the U.S. has a special importance, which has become clearer as the superpower supported the country at the right time. President Bill Clinton's recent decision to provide \$300 million is a "compassionate" sign from his administration and people, said the writer, as Jordan today faces several rumours about its economy, and it is imponant to take precautionary measures. Also in this regard, the aid of Arab brothers, especially the U.A.E., shows how the international community concerned with honouring His Majesty King Hussein and appreciates Jordan's role in the world, claimed Momani who added that the U.S. assistance ensures that the Kingdom's internal situation will witness stability in all fields, and this will help Jordan play its role in achieving lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East - an issue of interna-

'The soul of the age... wonder of our stage'

MAY THE SOUL of His Majesty ty. The late King exerted tremen-King Hussein rest in peace. As Muslims and Arabs this is all we say when we lose a dear person; and King Hussein was (still is) dear, most dear, to us all. Literally, "Islam" means submission; and we all submit to the will of the Almighty God in this We say may his soul rest in

peace, assured that it indeed will. His whole life, since his accession to the Throne some 47 years ago, has been a constant, uninterrupted struggle. A struggle to build a nation, to foster and nourish it, and to place it firmly not only on the regional but also on the global map; a struggle to steer away from pompous, egoustical, hollow, illmeaning or misguided heroism, to avoid ill alliances of all sorts, to achieve independence of position and integrity of approach, and to live and let live; a struggle and an unwavering determination to reject violence and destruction and embrace dialogue and persuasion; a struggle and a determination to institutionalise, liberalise, pluralise, democratise, nationalise, Arabise, Islamise and humanise, universalise and glob-

His soul will rest in peace because, as U.S. President Bill Clinton perceptively said in bis moving, elegant eulogy of the late King, he did more than his best. Life is short, and the King invested in every minute of it. He was much like an diligent NBA baskethall-player, for whom every second - every fraction of a sec-ond - counted. The ultimate criterion upon which we humans are judged, is not the extent of our success or failure, but the extent of the efforts we exert and the quality of the perseverance we show in shouldering responsibili-

dous efforts and showed remarkable perseverance. But he also achieved a great deal of success.

History will have a lot to say, and positively, about the King's overall legacy: between the common, ordinary people (of all ages, persuasions, and backgrounds) who gathered for days in the cold of winter at the gate of Al-Hussein Medical Centre to pray for him during his last moments and the mighty leaders of the globe (of all ideologies, orientations and alliances) who came from the nearest and farthest points on the globe to pay respects, there are zillions of truths to be considered. and zillions of lessons.

A lot can be said on this occasion: ahout the man himself, his achievements, and his exceptional, unique role in the country, region and globe. What I wish to focus on briefly is his peace legacy. Even though he did a great deal for peace, and even though his own people and people of the globe show remarkable appreciation of what he did, much of his contribution remains either misunderstood or taken for granted. It is well-known that the King

has signed a durable peace treaty with Israel, has secured the borders of his country, has restored its rights, has pushed bard in the direction of peace-building, has worked hard to create stability in the region, etc.

Three dimensions of his peace legacy, however, have not been fully recognised. The first is that even though he was able to secure a peace treaty with Israel (signed only after the Egyptian and Palestinian hrethren have signed), his concern has not been just with peace between his country and Israel. For decades, he kept asserting that the peace he wanted was peace for all: just, comprehensive, durable and lasting. What was on his mind was not his Jordanian people alone but all of the children of Abraham: the Palestinians, the Syrians, the Lebanese, and (yes) the Israelis. The King did not die satisfied with peace, though he did his best for it. Had be cared about peace for his own country only, he would bave taken it easy and spent the last years of his life content, happy, and relaxed. But he did not. He wanted peace for all. While the Palestinians and Israelis were negotiating at Wye and were about to call it quits, he left the Mayo Clinic (seriously ill as he was) to intervene, push for an agreement, and attend the signing ceremony. And he has never failed to stress the need for peace with

Syria and Lebanon.

The second has to do with the type of peace he envisioned. For him, peace was not the end of hostilities; was not a permanent ceasefire; was not cold or lukewarm relations. The concept of warm peace, which emerged in connection with the Jordanian-Israeli peace, is a grand contribu-tion of the late King, one which deserves more appreciation than it has received. For him, peace has to be genuine, has to be full, has to he real: normal relations; peace was peace all the way, not halfpeace, not piece, not fragments, not percentages. The sad thing is that neither the Arabs nor the Israelis have understood or appreciated what warm peace meant. Many of our Arab brethren (out of ignorance, out of ill-nature or out of jealousy) made fun of warm peace (many still do) and gave Jordan and the King a hard time. Israeli governments (especially the present one) failed to match



Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

adequately. The King was willing to go all the way. Israel was not. Successive Israeli governments kept procrastinating and fussing over petty fragments. The King's holistic, transcendental vision was way above the heads of many of our hrethren and many of the Israeli leaders. He kept saying: do not waste time over side-issues, over trivial matters and minute details. Time is still wasted.

It is indeed ironic that the present Israeli government which keeps boring us to death about talk of reciprocity did not reciprocate the King's peace initiative. Neither the Arab brethren, nor the Israeli neighbours and partners in peace have contributed what they should have to warm peace. Warm peace was the King's sole contri-

The third point, often unfairly taken for granted, is that the King was the first, the very first to call for peace in the region. Even though be came third, chronologically, in signing peace with Israel. he was the first peace advocate in the region. From the very beginning of the Israeli-Arah conflict, he kept calling for resolving the conflict through dialogue, through negotiations, through peaceful means. He was saying this at a time when both the Israelis and the King's warmth or reciprocate some of our Arab brethren (who

decades later) were parading their macho muscles, macho armies and macho egos. crying war, violence and destruction. The first peace proponent, peace advocate, and peace-maker in the Middle East, let there he no mistake about it, is not an Israeli, is not an Arab brethren, but the late King Hussein. He was decades ahead of others in calling for peace, and it took the Israelis and the Arab brethren decades to see what he saw from the start. The King had envisioned Arabs and Israelis shaking hands, and living and letting live, decades before any Israeli or Arab shook hands.

One is, of course, delighted, heartened to see soldiers like Begin, Sadat. Rabin, Perez and Arafat tum peacemakers and get a Nohel Prize: hut the first Nobel Prize for peace should have gone to the first peacemaker, the father of non-violence and peaceful coexistence in the Middle East, the late King Hussein. This oversight may perhaps yet be rectified.

Much has been said ahout King Hussein, much is being said, and much will be said for years to come. He was a man of profound vision, a decent man: buman, humane, meek, loving, elegant, forgiving. altruistic, sensitive, perceptive, far-sighted. It will take decades to do him and his legacy iustice.

To us - and to many in the Arab World and the globe who are hon-est enough and sophisticated enough to understand him - be is what Shakespeare was to Ben Johnson: the "Soul of the age./The applause! delight! The wonder of our stage." He was a great hero and a great man. He is one of the greatest heroes and men not just in this fast-ending century, but in the fast-ending millennium.

Your Majesty King Abdullah

royalty, so please excuse any protocol errors I might be committing. While I am not royalty, I feel like we have some things in common. Both of us have grown up in a multi-cultural atmosphere. You are a proud Jordanian inarried to a Palestinian and I am a proud Palestinian married to a

I decided to address Your Majesty because of my conviction of the tremendous potential your to the peoples of Jordan and Palesune as well as the people of the entire area.

My excitement stems from the fact that for the first time in my adult life, a modem Arab country will be ruled by a person whose age is close to the average age of the majority of the country's ciu-

With Crown Prince Hamzah, the

I AM NOT used to addressing two of you represent the bopes aspiration of young Jordanians and Arabs. Young people in the Arab World today want to live in a country that is open, liberal, modern and full of opportunities. In order to accomplish these goals and dreams, major changes are needed. I believe that in the words and deeds of your father, His Majesty the late King Hussein, there are clear signposts that can help you lead the way to a new Jordan. In his last speech from London, he said clearly that he intended to carry out major changes. Fate took him away before he had a chance to make all these changes, but I believe that

His Majesty King Hussein left enough words and deeds to be your guide in the years to come. One of the most memorable statements of your father was his support for the need to build the human resources of Jordan:

"People are the most precious thing we possess." Jordan has been a leader in educating its people, but much more is needed. There is no need for more buildings and teachers. What is needed is quality education. To compete with a vast changing world Jordan needs to raise its citizens' technical know-bow.

In order to develop the people of Jordan to their full potential, a policy of openness is necessary. Jordan must open up itself internally and externally. The educational, economic and cultural gap inside Jordan must be narrowed. Jordan must open up a lot more to its fellow Arab brethren and to the outside world.

To improve Jordan's ability to compete in a new highly technological world you can be a driving force in carrying out your father's dream of having an Internet con-nection in every Jordanian school



Daoud Kuttab

subscribing to the Internet by 60%. The issue of the Internet brings me to another area badly in need of change — the media. The example of openness and transparency that His Majesty King Hussein displayed with his illness should be a lesson to all Jordanian officials. The last few days in your father's life witnessed a huge make courageous and difficult

access to the Internet, satellite, or outside broadcasts had information much faster and much more reliable than what was shown on Jordan's official media. It is high time to shed away these ineffec-tive media policies and replace them with new ideas. The global village is upon us and Jordan can't continue to live in media isolation.

Private radio and television should be allowed in Jordan and the current anti-democratic Press and Publication Law must be

Finally, you have inherited a tremendous opportunity. You bave the goodwill of your people and the rest of the world. Think of what needs to be changed.

Listen carefully to what your advisors say, but in the end don't hesitate to do what you feel needs to be done. Use this goodwill to information gap. Those with decisions as soon as possible.

Letters of condolence

I DREADED the day that I would have to express my sorrow for the passing away of His Majesty King Hussein, who had over decades imposed his forceful character on events in our volatile Middle East and stood up bravely to-defy menacing challenges. I am overwhelmed with concern and grief that a leader with his qualities of wisdom, courage and moderation will leave a much felt void, whilst other less-deserving characters still prevail, elsewhere in the area; I feel better that destiny snuffed out the breath of this noble soul so untimely, while he was much needed and lonked up to, not only hy his people, but by many others. The late Monarch's traits of character, one rarely finds amongst other leaders who rule the destiny of peo-ple in the Arab Middle East. Because of the courageous and enlightened leader that he was, today, Jordan is the civilised and stable place that it is. There are many misguided and malicious elements, who have never appreciated the better deal they have in Jordan, whilst other Arab peoples are treated like a herd of sheep. It is my hope that these elements will never see the light of day or be allowed to undermine the achievements of the late King and Jordanian Royal family in general, for the good of Jordan and the Jordanian people. We can only speak in relative terms when making compar-

isons, and when we do that, we can say without hesitation, that Jordan enjoys the highest degree of respect for human rights and civilised conduct in the Arab Middle East, and I will say without hesitation also, that the credit for that goes to His Majesty King Hussein and other enlightened members of the Royal family, who have in spite of great odds, prevented Jordan from being dragged to the abyss that other countries in the area have been drugged to. His Majesty the late King Hussein, never allowed the political sloganeering, demagoguery or jingoism that other Arab leaders adopted, and which brought nothing but destruction and misery upon the people concerned to rule his style of political conduct; he had the courage and wisdom to call a spade a spade and to "put the dots on letters," no matter who thought otherwise. For him it was high time that imposters were put in place and not allowed to impose their

will on Jordan, to the detriment of Jordan. His Majesty King Hussein and I are of the same age and we went to the same school during our formative years; he came back to Jordan to be crowned King at the tender age of 17, and I went back to Bughdad to enter law college. Over the years I watched His Majesty being put to the test with difficult decisions, but considering the often irrational dictates of Arab politics, he managed, with the support of able Jordanian statesmen to rise up to the challenge and at the same time helped develop a civilised society in Jordan, against formidable odds and meagre resources, which should be the envy of others who reduced their countries to misery in spite of much higher economic

potential. The achievements of His Majesty King Hussein should not only be preserved but further advanced as was his ambition. This will be the task of King Abdullah the second (God preserve and protect him) with the support and the allimportant solidarity of the Royal family.

The tragic and untimely transition, has suddenly put Abdullah Ben Al Hussein in the forefront of events, when he least expected or desired to be there, hoping that His Majesty King Hussein will continue his mission of leading the country, as did all of us. Since it was the will of God, that the transition took place, the young King Abdullah will be much in need of the support of the Royal family to insure the smooth continuity of the Hashemite Dynasty in Jordan to serve and protect Jordan from local preda-tors, and to enable the young King to stand up to formidable challenges and lurking dangers in Arab and Middle East politics; Jordan on the other hand is not lacking in experienced and able statesmen, who can act as counsel to His Majesty King Abdullah, at least in the initial stages of his rule. After all, the late King Hussein, was only 17 when he assumed his powers. It is our hope that Abdullah Ben Al Hussein will prove that he enjoys the same mettle as his late father. From the depth of my heart I ask God to protect the young King and enable him to carry the banner of Al Hussein forward.

Omar Abbas

"NAJWA, DO you have time to see my nephew today, I have just been called and told he is ill. Nothing serious, but I would like to have your opinion."

"Sure " was my answer " but I have a few things to finish. would four o'clock be fine?" Little did I know that my friend had only one sister, the late Queen Alia of Jordan and the nephew he was talking about was Prince Ali, her son of one and a half years. Later that afternoon, I asked my friend how to get to his sister's house. He cryptically answered that he will drive me there.

Come four o'clock, we got in his car and drove off. Let me explain that my friend, an internist and the brother of the late Queen is a quiet and very reserved guy. Certainly not a charry fellow by any means. On our way going through the then single lane streets of Amman and through the somewhat empty hills approaching Al Hummar, it suddenly dawned on me that we were on our way to the palace. I asked him, and he tersely answered in the affirmative.

Let me explain here further that whereas my friend is reserved. I am known to have transparent thoughts and behaviour. I was flabbergasted; here I was on my way to the home of the King of Jordan totally unprepared, both mentally and in dress, I expressed those thoughts to my friend and chided him because I was not dressed for the occasion. He answered "you will do fine." I then asked, " how do I address him?"

"You say Sayyidna (Our Master). That is how everyone addresses him." "But I am not used to that" I blurted out. "How do you expect me to call him Sayyidna, I never called anyone that. And to call him Jalaltak in Arabic is not nice. Really what do I call him?" My friend said everyone calls him Sayyidna, but to suit myself.

By that time we were very close to the Hashmiah Palace. My heart was pounding, and all I could think of was how I looked and what to call the King.

A few moments later we were there. We rang the bell and waited. The butler came to the door and showed us in. The smiling face of King Hussein, a face I had come to

admire and love over so many years appeared before me. His keen penetrating eyes had a twinkle in his eyes as be said "Ahlan Sitti, it is nice of you to take the time to come and see

You could have dropped me with a feather. Here he was, the King calling me Sitti. With such a reception could anyone find it hard to call him Sayyidna? Thus started a relationship that lasted many years. Other

equally memorable incidents happened, but they all conveyed the same message: here was a man who was more of a human being than a King was. A man who saw through people and always anticipated their every mood and move. As I think of those years gone by I know how he will be missed.

> Najwa Khuri-Bulos MD Professor, Department of Pediatrics Division Head, Pediatric Infectious Disease Jordan University Hospital Amman, Jordan

WE. THE Jordanian police officers working with the U.N. as part of the international police taskforce in Bosnia and Herzegovina received the worst news in our lives when we lost our father, brother, leader, and King. We were watching the funeral on TV, with the other nationalities, and they too were very sad and also spoke about our King and the great things he did to our country. May God have mercy on his soul.

> Captain Loaie Nour-Aldien Khaier Chief Mto Sarajevo region h.q. e-mail address: loaie.khaier@unmibh.org

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FIRST AND foremost I would in while watering the funeral live. Majesti King Abdullah ail the Bunch people are with him.

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Letters of condolence

WITH GREAT sorrow I extend my deepest and sincere condolences to His Majesty King Abdullah and the whole Royal Hashemite family.

King Hussein will never be forgotten, his name will forever be inscribed in our hearts and minds with letters of light.

May God rest his soul.

Hana Ismail A. Rahman and family
Amman

WE SHARE the pain and sadness over the loss of His Majesty King Hussein with the Hashemite family, the Jordanian family and the whole world

Dr. Usama J. Abdelhadi & family 23 Elterwater Ave Nepean, Ont

"Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day" 2 Corinthians 2:16

YOUR MAJESTY Queen Noor, The Royal Family, and The Dear People of Jordan,

It is with heartfelt sorrow for your loss that I greet you. It has been my prayer (and will continue to be my prayer) for all of you that God will fill the void in your hearts. May peace and joy and the assurance that His Majesty King Hussein Ben Talal rests in the bosom of God and is whole and complete and as vihrant as he ever was. In my heart I feel that His Majesty knew God like no other man. It was evident in his life, commitment to his family and countrymen as well as in his speeches to the world, that he consulted God in all that be did.

I lost my mother to cancer when she was hut 52 years of age. I felt such loss, ahandonment, and great anger. But through that difficult time God became even more real to me. He Himself wrapped His arms around me and comforted me like no one else could. My hushand was much support as were my children, but God the Almighty met my needs hest because He knows my every need, thought, desire and feeling. The Holy Spirit helped me express to God just what I was feeling and needed for which I am grateful. It has been 7 years since my mother went on to be with the Lord God Almighty and my heart feels some loneliness at times, but for the most part I have much peace and assurance that she is with our Creator.

It is with great honour that I lift up my prayers on behalf of the entire Hashemite Family and the people of Jordan. I pray that His Majesty King Abdullah Ben Hussein will grow in stature as his father and his grandfather. I also pray for the wisdom of Solomon that he may rule with much wisdom, compassion, loyalty, and trust. Most certainly you and the entire Jordanian family have our support, trust, love and prayers.

May God grant you the desires and needs of your hearts!

Tammy L. Summey Southern Baptist Representative Yordan

I WOULD like to extend my heartfelt condolences to the people of Jordan, and of the world, on the death of King Hussein, a great leader and a great man.

When a guest in your country in September, 1997, I quickly realised the immense respect and love its peoples held for King Hussein. When I returned to Australia I tried to learn as much as I could about this remarkable human being. He has been a peacemaker, a statesman and a nohle example to other heads of state worldwide.

Please add my name to those who have paid tribute to a King who truly deserve the title. I wish his family and his nation comfort in their mourning.

Patricia E. Slater (Mrs) P.O. Box 32 Kenmore Queensland Anstralia

AS A former employee of the Jordan Times, 1 wish to convey my most sincere and deeply felt condolences upon the death of His Majesty King Hussein, whose hright star of hope will now forever shine upon his people, Jordan, and all those whose yearn for peace, prosperity, and human rights the world over.

I would also like to wish His Majesty King Abdullah all the wisdom and hravery that his father had.

> Jean Pierre Ady Fenyo Budapest

FIRST AND foremost I would like to extend my condolences to all the Jordanian people. I cried the whole day while watching the funeral live. As a Muslim I believe he was my brother, father and King. I would like to wish His Majesty King Ahdullah all the best in future. All the British people are with him.

Fatma U.K.

1 WOULD like to send my heartfelt condolences to the Royal Family and the people of Jordan, oo the loss of His Majesty King Hussein, may he rest in Peace. He was a truly great, compassionate and courageous man. The World will be a much poorer place without him.

1 share in your sadness and grief, May Allah bless you.

Pamela H du Boulay Beguildy, Knighton, Powys

MY HEART and prayers go out to Queen Noor and the family of the late King Hussein. The world has suffered a great loss.

I know that His Majesty King Abdullah will be a living tribute and testament to the great ruler his father was. His success is assured.

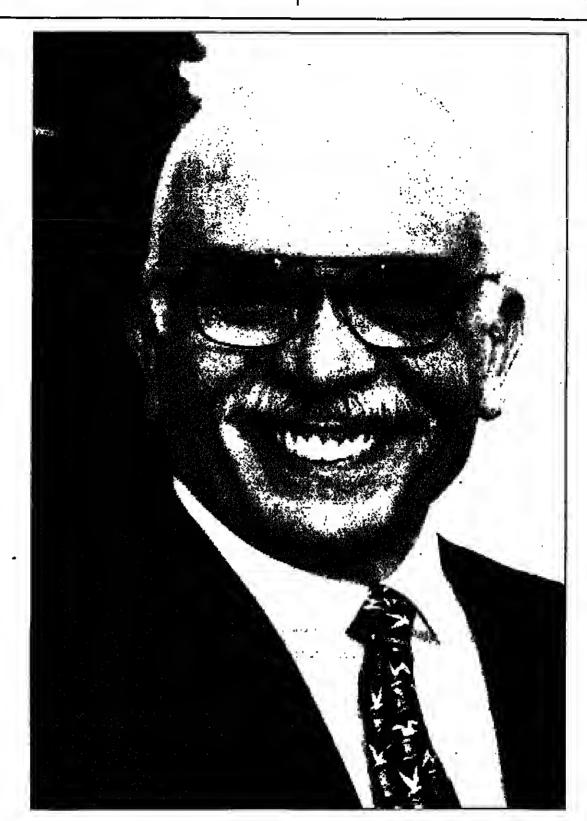
Melissa Goodwin Mt. Dora, Florida U.S. LET ME extend my condolences and deepest sympathies to Her Majesty Queen Noor, His Majesty King Abdullah and the entire Royal Hashemite Family on the passing away of our great King His Majesty King Hussein Beo Talal.

His Majesty was a great man and always considered the well-being of Jordan and the people of Jordan, whom he always referred to as the great Jordanian family.

Your Majesty, you will always be in our thoughts and hearts, and your legacy lives on. May you rest in peace Your Majesty, and God grant us the peace you believed in and sought for.

Mohammad Jalal University of Nebraska-Lincoln THIS WAS not the Amman I knew. It was grey and sad, it was not the clear, warm place I went to several times. I felt so close to the generosity, hospitality, sense of friendship and of peace of the people of Jordan, so well represented hy their King. I was so sad, as if a part of this world was disappearing, for the King had still so much to do, for I felt he left us too soon, leaving his mission unfinished. Yet, his achievements are already beyood one man's life, and this was what made King Hussein so strong and impressive. I am convinced this influence is felt beyond the land of Jordan in the world. In some way, the King is here, somewhere, with us. Today, I am with Jordan

V. Depaigne Brussels Belgium



IT WAS with considerable regret that I learned of the King's illness, and his journey home to die. He was, in my opinion one of the foremost men in all the world. His loss is a tragedy for his country, people, and family. I weep for all of them, and pray that he will live on in the hearts and memories of you all.

Paul Simmons Grove City, PA

KING HUSSEIN, even in death, brought enemies together. He was truly a great man of peace. May God he with the Royal family and the people of Jordan.

David Dickey, Tampa, Florida

THE WORLD has lost a great King, a great leader and a great amhassador for freedom. I would like to express my

deepest sympathy to the Royal family and the entire nation.

May God rest him in peace and comfort his family and his country. We lost a great man, a man that will certainly live in his son the new King, and also in our hearts for ever.

King Hussein was an example that every nation should fol-

Someday in my life I hope to visit his grave. If I did not have the pleasure to shake his hand I can at least someday kneel down to pray for him by his grave side.

My own country of Cyprus and my new country in Canada I am sure will join the world in paying tribute to a great King.

On behalf of all my family 1 extend our deepest sympa-

On behalf of all my family 1 extend our deepest sympathy.

Myrianthi Chaudri Canada

I WISH to tell the people of Jordan that I share their loss. I was fortunate to have trained many RJAF students on the F-16 aircraft here in the U.S. I made some good friends and I sensed their affection for King Hussein. Again, my deepest sympathy to all Jordanians.

Jay Irish Fort Worth, Texas U.S. WE WOULD like to offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to Her Majesty Queen Noor and the Royal family, over the death of our beloved father and great King. He was able to capture our hearts with his compassion, honesty and true devotion to his country and people. He was a man who, in a long and difficult quest, sought for peace and harmony not only for his Kingdom but for the entire world. We'll always remember him for his smile, his strength, his vision and leadership. We hid our farewell to not only the greatest King through the centuries hut also a wonderful man who will always remain alive in our hearts.

We also extend our deepest sympathies to Prince Ali and Princess Haya because yesterday their sorrow for their father was deepened by the memory of their late mother. Finally may God Almighty, give His Majesty King

Abdullah the wisdom and strength to shoulder his new responsibility and carry on his father's legacy.

Yousef Abdul Hamid Nsour and family Amman

OUR THOUGHTS and prayers are with you all during this very sad time. May you find peace and comfort in knowing how many lives were touched hy your King. May his spirit live on through his son.

Susan Allen Sparks, NV U.S.

1 SHARE with you and every Jordanian the loss of a great

leader.

King Hussein was a true man of peace, and as such we shall always remember him. May his soul rest in peace

Eli Hacohen

A FRIEND — is one to whom one may pour out all the contents of one's heart, chaff and grain together knowing that the gentlest of hands will take and sift it.

Keep what is worth keeping and with a breath of kindness blow the rest away — Arabian Proverb

King Hussein was this kind of friend to his people and to the world. His fearless courage and desire for peace will loog be remembered. My deepest condolences to Queen Noor, the Royal Family and the Jordanian people; my prayers to King Abdullah.

> Dixie Herron Shreveport, Louisiana

THE DIGNITY of Jordan as it faces a change from one distinguished (if challenging) era to another, under the leadership of a new and vigorous King, is superb. The whole world watched as the people and Jordan's leadership demonstrated their ability to live up to the hopes of leaders worldwide, as Jordan continues its remarkable leadership in the Middle East. All the key leaders of the world assembled, elbow-to-elbow, to pay just tribute to a fallen leader. I am confident that Jordan will justify the trust of the world that peace in the Middle East remains in good hands. The grief of the world on the passing of your former King is very real and intense. For decades, your former King put a human face on the Arab struggles for peace and justice. May your new King truly continue on his father's path.

Dave McLallen mclallen@pell.net

TO HIS Majesty King Abdullah, Her Majesty Queen Noor, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hamzah, and the remaining members of the esteemed Royal Hashemite Family, may God protect you all I write on behalf of Noor Alkhas, Yara Gharaybeh,

Muna Al Mufti and Omar Bustami, Jordanian students here at the University of Leeds in England. We would like to express our deepest condolences and our heartfelt sadness over the death of our heloved leader, King Hussein. Here, we feel, as do all Jordanians, that on this grievous day, we have lost not only one of the greatest statesmen and leaders the world has witnessed, hut a father, a mentor, an inspiration and a light which led us through times of darkness. In his last interview, His Majesty, God hless his sonl, said that be would like to be remembered as being "of the people and for the people," and indeed, this is the memory our departed King has imprinted in our harts and minds, a memory that will remain with us till the day we pass into the hands of God. It is truly with the utmost sorrow that we bid farewell to this great man, the greatest of men. The grief felt hy Your Highnesses and by the Jordanian family as a whole, is of course shared hy us here from afar, as we bewilderedly observe images of a sombre Amman. We may only hope and pray that God will help you and the whole of the Jordanian population through this time of hardship and bereavement. May God bless you and protect you all, and may our cherished leader King Hussein rest in peace by the side of God.

> Karim Jarir Halazun, Leeds University England.

WE WERE asked hy our father judge Fayed Halazon (90 years), who served as a judge of the Court of Appeal for over 10 years and served as attorney general and a judge in the various courts of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan under the late King Hussein to convey his sincere condolences to the new King of Jordan His Majesty King Abdullah and HRH Crown Prince Hamzah.

Let this be a witness of the great accomplishment of the King Hussein, the founder of modern Jordan who followed the legacy of the Hashemite family in its national endeavour to modernise Jordan and create the world recognition that we now enjoy.

Eng. Raja, Dr. Jarir Sary F. Halazon Amman

I WOULD like to pay my respects and sincere condolences to His Majesty King Abdullah, the Royal family and the people of the Hashemite Kingdom for the loss of the father of the Jordanian nation.

It is a very sad day for me. I feel I lost a friend and a great leader. As you know, many Israelis were concerned and have sent their hest wishes to His Majesty during his illness. We all loved him and admired his courage.

At the funeral of our beloved Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, President Bill Clinton said in his speech two words in Hebrew with a double meaning "Shalom Chaver" — good hye friend or may peace be upon your friend.

May God grant His Majesty King Abdullab long years of health and prosperity, and maintain his father's legacy and his efforts for peace.

Yossi Fischer, Tel-Aviv Israel

DAYS ARE passing hy and you're not with us today ... A sigh sounds like million sighs since you went away But what can we do.. and what can we say ... Words are helpless and tears seem the only way ... So let us tell you if we may.. Let us tell you about the emptiness.. the loneliness that we'll feel from now on and every day... Let us tell you about the pain.. but we — believe me — won't complain 'cause you taught us how to hare ... 'cause we know how much you did care... We'll always be side hy side... 'cause we know you're still there .. So my King.. May God have mercy upon you.. and may God protect the love that we share..

> A proud Jordanian woman Austin, Texas

Luxembourg delegation

AS LUXEMBOURG was omitted in the list of attending countries printed ("Leaders at funeral") oo page 12 of Tuesday's Jordan Times, we hope that Luxembourg's attendance can be recognised in the oext issue of the Jordan Times, either in a brief ootice, or perhaps by printing an ameoded list of countries in attendance.

Luxembourg delegation

Their Royal Highnesses the Grand-Duke Jean and the Grand-Duchess Josephine-Charlotte.

The Embassy of Belgium
Amman

U.N. sees improved Mideast land routes

agreements are forcing Arab countries to overcome their political differences and develop a Middle East road network, transport specialists said Wednes-

day. "Arab countries realise the need for a land network and know establishing it could take between five and 10 years depending on circumstances," Ahmed Farahat, head of the policy division at the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) sold Renters.

"The contribution of road to Gaza after the such a network to strip was handed over regional economies would be immense." he

Most of the roadwork is already completed to form an Arab network but there are a few missing links, said Farahat.

He cited a break of a few kilometres in a main route linking Syria and Iraq. The border between them reopened in 1997 after being closed for more than over 16 years over political differences. Egypt took the initia-

tive to reconstruct a

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Cabin Crew Department,

Fax: 9626-5677411

P.O.Box 1803 Amman 11118 Jordan

Amman - Jordan

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airline experience) and up to 30 is advantageous.

Candidates must be aged

Qatar Airways, the latest years old (with cabin crew airline

the Palestinian to National Authority by Israel, said Farahat, who took part in a two-day U.N. sponsored transportation confer-

ence in Beirut. He said Arab representatives at the meeting formed a committee that has made completing a pan-Arab road system its target.

"The new network will not only reduce freight costs but will also boost trade and create interest to include the region in international highway

schemes," he added.
Another U.N. official said developing Arab transportation was of world interest.

"Improved links and networks in this strate-gic region will serve the whole world by reducing costs and shortening cargo routes between east and west." Nabil Safwat, chief of the transport section at ESCWA, told Reuters.

ESCWA covers 13 Arab states from Egypt to the Gulf. At \$46 billion in

1997, the European Union (EU) was the main destination for Arab exports, followed by Japan. The EU exports to Arab states reached \$66.9 billion in the same year, with the United States was the second largest exporter to the region.

Israeli business leader demands investment in Jordan

TEL AVIV (AFP) - The chief of Israel's manufacturer's association called Wednesday for Israel to invest \$280 mil-

The economic stability of our Jordanian neighbours is as important in our view as stability in terms of security," said association bead Dan Proper.

"The Israeli government, quietly and without a lot of publicity, should invest \$200 million to strengthen the dinar," Proper said on Israel radio.

He said private investors and companies should invest another \$80 million in industry, public works like road paving and high-tech companies operating in a joint industrial zone in the city of Irbid.

Iraq to continue oil supplies to Jordan

BAGHDAD (R) — A senior Iraqi official said that Iraq was supplying its neighbour, Jordan, with all its oil needs and an agreement signed between the two countries last month was continuing.
"Our oil exports to

Jordan bas not been delayed even for a single day and an agreement signed between Iraq and Jordan earlier this year is still valid," Falch Al Khayat, director general of planning and studies at the oil ministry, told Reuters late on Tuesday.

Asked about news reports which said that Arabia and Saudi Kuwait had offered to supply Jordan with oil. he said "Such matter is not related to us."

Iraq's Oil Minister Mohammed Rashid also said Iraq would continue with its oil deliveries for Jordan.

"Iraq's commitment of many years to meet all the needs of the brother-

ly Jordanian people for oil and oil products is absolute, in line with the Iraqi leadership's belief and faith in pan-Arabism in everything it Rashid told Monte Carlo does," Radio which was monitored

by the BBC.
"In recent years we have provided everything that our brothers asked for, both in the yearly plans or even the seasonal changes in a particular year, he said.
"We will continue to

provide sisterly Jordan with all its needs in crude oil and oil products, including a bonus, with preferential prices. as requested," he added. Iraq and Jordan signed

an agreement in January under which Baghdad would supply Amman this year with 4.8 million tonnes of crude oil. Iraq's oil exports to Jordan is exempted from U.N. trade sanctions imposed on Iraq for its 1990 invasion of

Yemen's oil income falls to \$453.8m

SANAA (RI - Yemen's income from oil exports reached \$453.8 million in 1998, sharply down from about \$1.1 billion a year earlier, oil ministry figures have showed.

The government's share of crude produced in Yemen from January to December stood at 69 million barrels of crude, the ministry said.

Local consumption for the same period stood at 29.9 million barrels and the government's share of exports was 39.1 million barrels. Yemen is a small oil pro-

ducer which pumps around 300,000 barrels of crude per day. There are about 30 for-

eign energy companies in the country which hopes to attract greater foreign investment in its oil indus-

Yemen produces about 390,000 barrels per day of

Riyal recovers, Iran eyes curbs on hard cash demand

TEHRAN (R) — Iran's rival has recovered slightly after the government threatened measures to reduce demand for dollars, including restrictions on "shopping sprees" in the nearby Gulf commerical centre of

On Tehran's active black market, the riyal was traded at 7,700 to the dollar. against 8,100 late last

traders and assurances by officials that the riyal's plunge had no economic basis and was solely due to psycbological pressures.

Officials said Iranians

were stocking up on dollars for foreign trips during Iran's new year holiday in late March and for the upcoming Muslim Haj pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia. In two weeks, the riyal

The recovery followed bad fallen to as low 8,700

police action against street to the dollar from 7,200 riyals per dollar.

Central bank governor Mohsen Nourbakhsb said Monday the government would take strict measures to reduce demand for foreign currencies in a bid to sbore up the riyal.

These include even tighter control on the imports of goods, stricter customs procedures, and a curb on flights abroad ahead of the new year bolidays, newspapers reported. Officials said the number of flights to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. a popular destination for Iranian tourists and traders, would be cut back to reduce

demand for dollars. Nourbakhsb said officials would also try to lower demand for hard currency by stopping state firms from turning to the black market to secure dollars for spare parts and raw materi-

Amra Forum Hotel

The government, badly hit by a sharp fall in oil prices, has been unable to provide sufficient hard currency to state and private firms, prompting them to tum to the black market. The government had

come under presure to stop the rival's crash, which has created uncertainty among traders and further pushed up prices of consumer

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THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams 1 Vegetable dish 6 Luge 10 Himalayan monk 14 Subdivision of a people 15 increase staff 16 Actor Shartf

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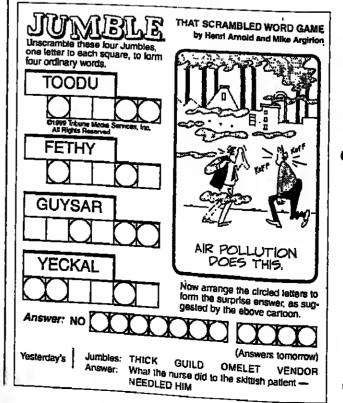


Mutt'n'Jeff





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ANCER: June 22 to July 22) make the job is no lun are hashe hat because you've in the much There are no extra pe be somed for working your death Do the things you re go and delegate the rest to some the Today, that perfect person ten up may in the mek of time If the property of the consequence of the consequence won hadn't consequence who hadn't consequence who hadn't consequence won hadn't con and something that seems ab bening on there being more boild lose if you bet the other being riskler position to take.

burger in a sear array Th burner in the way. Strangely e the could refer to a clog it plumbing or to your mate not promiting around the house he pomised to take care of. If any pon. No point in getting all t

LIBRA: September 23 to C bound e lust about learned a hold project. This could be fun dally if you've got a parmer and project. This could be more experience. Don't

A review of news from the Arabic Press

Revenue collected at touristic and archaeological sites drop to JD6.7m

** THE TOTAL revenue collected northern mountainous archaeological from all archaeological sites during the place. A total of 165,270 persons visitfirst eleven months of 1998 amounted to JD6.69 million, 6.27 per cent less than the JD7.14 million collected during the same period of 1997. Sources at the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities said entrance fees to Petra accounted for 83.45 per cent of the total revenue from all touristic and archaeological sites.

The sources indicated that 317,317 persons visited Petra during the January-November period of last year, 11.53 per cent less than the 358.680 visitors during the same period of 1997. Jordanians apparent for the period of 1997. 1997. Jordanians accounted for 14.2 per cent of the total number of visitors

Jerash and Madaba (Map Church) were visited by 215,499 and 117,760 tourists during the period covered, 8.46 and 15.07 per cent less than the numbers recorded during 1997 when 235.427 and 138,663 persons visited the two places. Jordanians represented the two places. Jordanians represented 24.73 per cent of Jerash visitors. Um Qais was visited mostly by Jordanians who accounted for 71.18 per cent of the 133.071 persons that visited this

ed Um Qais during the first eleven months of 1997.

The castles of Ajloun and Karak were visited by 140,966 and 85,560 persons respectively compared to 132,530 and 95,122 tourists in 1997. The numbers for 1998 were less by 6.75 per cent and 10.05 per cent respectively although Jordanians represented 65.9 per cent of those who visited the Ajloun Castle and 17.1 per cent of those wbo visited the Karak Castle.

Tabaqet Fahel (Pella) and Wadi Rum were the two areas that received more tourists last year as the number rose from 38,800 persons in 1997 to 65,064 visitors and from 59,657 persons to 67,304 visitors respectively. The lowest number of tourists was recorded at Um Al Jimal which was visited by only 2,858 persons, 29.10 per cent less than the 4,031 figure registered in

The Amman Museum was visited by 37,850 tourists last year, 20.36 per cent less than the 47,525 persons who toured the museum in 1997 (Al Ra'i +

Panel studying mechanism to include private sector in Disi water project

** THE OVERALL cost to draw water from Disi Basin to Amman was estimated to cost JD600 milwas estimated to cost JD600 million by Thabet Al Wir, the vice president of the Zarqa Chamber of Industry. "This big project will create thousands of local employment opportunities." he said. Wir, a member of the higher committee formed to follow up the measures for setting up the "National Water Company" explained that the JD630 million estimate cost presented by the

estimate cost presented by the Ministry of Planning includes everything related to the project such as the cost of establishing the company and laying down the pipes. Earlier, a preliminary concept envisaged the cost of setting up the company at JD100 million.

The Zarqa industrialist indicated that the Ministry of Water and Irrigation will soon be floating the documents to qualify the compa-nies that will be submitting offers for the project. Such a step will be in preparation to float a tender on those who meet the terms. Wir expected no less than five firms to move to the second stage of the

Wir concluded that a small panel was formed to study the mechanism of the participation of the private sector and to formulate a general concept about the relationship of the private sector with the foreign firm and the ties of both with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation (Al Aswaq).

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1999

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) you have to finish the whole thing Something you learned in the past is today, however. Concentrate on the going to be very useful today. If a sit-uation comes up that you've seen before, go back to the previous time. Look at how it worked out then. If you did botch the job. put in the correction. This is how true learning occurs.

31.2

391

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20)
You're worried about money again, and the anxiety you're experiencing may actually be getting in the way of having the problems dissolve. Isn't it funny how this happens? Sometimes worrying about a thing makes it stick in place so we can't ever get past it.
Today, if you can possibly relax, you and your friend can find a way.
GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A bold move today could be disastrous.

Advise your partner not to do it. Its important to have all the facts, but you don't need to tell them all yet. Somebody once said that discretion was the better part of valour, and today that's certainly true. Be discreel, and advise your partner to do

the same.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 22) If you nouce your job is no fun anymore. maybe that's because you've taken on too much. There are no extra points to be gained for working yourself to death. Do the things you re good at. and delegate the rest to somebody else. Today, that perfect person could

show up just in the nick of time.

LEO: (July 23 to August 22) You might be tempted to take a risk. There's a great opportunity there, but one consequence you hadn't considered: Something that seems abundant will turn out to be scarce. So, if you're betting on there being more of it, you il lose. If you bet the other way. you'll probably win, but that's an even riskier position to take. Better

ust to wait. VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Beware of a deal today that looks too good to be true. It is. There's a barrier in the way. Strangely enough, this could refer to a clog in your plumbing, or to your mate not doing something around the house he or she promised to take care of. If any of the above transpires today, be a good sport. No point in getting all worked

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You've just about learned enough to put new skills to work on a household project. This could be fun, especially if you've got a partner with a little more experience. Don't think demolition phase now, and you can get into the reconstruct over the week-

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Your losses today could be even greater than yesterday, so take care. Concentrate on bringing money in, rather than spending it. One thing you'll gain plenty of today is experience. You don't bave to learn everything the hard way. Pay close attention to what's going on around you, and you can learn from other people's mistakes.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You could be wondering where you'll get the money to take the vacation you're planning. The conditions in effect right now are most likely keeping you stuck at home for a while. Instead of being frustrated, use this to your advantage. A home business could help you generate the cash you want.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) Today, you're going to go through a bit of a cleanup phase. Get rid of whatever you don't need so tomorrow you can get new stuff. If its emotional baggage you're carrying around, just dump it. You'll be amazed to see how much fun life can be. At least try it for a half an hour, to see if you like it.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 18) Be careful today with your money. You could be surprised at how fast you wind up going through it. Once there was plenty of it, but soon enough there won't be enough. Be extremely careful with your checkbook, and leave your credit cards at

PISCES: (February 19 to March 20) Remember to be respectful today, even when you don't feel like it. It'll earn you points. If somebody else doesn't understand where you're coming from, don't let it bother you. What this person is missing is something that's pretty obvious to you, and to some of your friends. Be gentle when you point it out.

> Birthstone of February: Amethyst - Onyx

Asian woes hurt U.S. tourist industry

Washington (AFP) — The economic turmoil in Asia was the main factor in a decline in the number of foreign tourists visiting the United States last year, the Commerce Department has

The report said figures from the third quarter of 1998 showed a 2.6 per cent decline in foreign visitors compared to the same period of 1997.

"Asia's economic simation continued to be the main factor for the overseas shortfall," said the report from the agency's International Trade Administration.

For the July-September quarter, the number of arrivals from Japan showed the sharpest decline - 11 per cent, with a 17 per cent decline in the month of September, due in part to a strike by Northwest Airlines.

"Despite these record declines, Japan still remains the top overseas market for the United States with 3.8 million arrivals through three quarters of 1998," the agency said.

"Asian arrivals to the United States continued double digit declines for the first three quarters of 1998. In all, arrivals from Asia through September 1998 were down nearly 14 per cent," is added.

Over the first nine months of 1998, the number of visiiors from western Europe grew two per cent, while those from other regions were also higher: South America (four per cent), Central America (26 per cent), the Middle East (six per cent), eastern Europe (seven per cent) and Africa (12 per cent).

(AFP) — Fifty per cent of U.S. households had a per-

sonal computer last year, a

technology market research

group reported Tuesday. In 1995, according 10 a

study by Dataquest, just 27 per ceni of U.S. homes were

equipped with a personal computer (PC).

"The PC penetration rate

Bank of Israel to raise capital adequacy ratios TEL AVIV (R) — The Bank who do," he added, of Israel said Tuesday it The Bank of Israel

planned to raise capital adequacy requirements for Israeli banks to 9.0 per cent from 8.0 per cent but denied the measure signalled con-cerns about the health of the

Banking sources said the move was aimed principally at Bank Hapoalim, whose capital adequacy ratio fell to 8.4 per cent after the bank booked a special one billion shekel (\$245 million) dividend payout in third-quarter

Hapoalim, Israel's largest bank, was acquired from the Israeli government by an investor group led by Ted Arison in September 1997 in a leveraged buyout.

"There is the matter of privatisation. Some of the banks were acquired with loans and (the owners) want to repay them," said a central bank official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

There is a difference when a bank is owned by the state, which doesn't take out profits, and when it is controlled privately by owners

The Bank of Israel denied in a statement that the mea-

sure, to be discussed at a Feb. 17 meeting of the bank supervision committee, signalled any concern about the stability of the Israeli banking system.

A Bank of Israel official said, however, that it was taken in light of the Asian financial crisis that showed the key role banking stability played in the overall econo-

This is shutting the stable door before the horses bolt." said Ian McEwen, a Londonbased banking analyst at Lehman Brothers in London. A report issued by

Hapoalim comparing finan-cial ratios of Israel's top five banks at the end of thirdquarter 1998 showed the ratio of capital to risk at Bank Leumi, the country's second largest bank, at 9.5 per cent.

Israel Discount Bank's stood at 8.2 per cent, United Mizrahi's at 8.3 per cent and First International Bank of Israel's at 11.0 per cent. McEwen said the practical effect of the measure would be to spur Israeli banks to increase their tier two risk capital, as defined by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

Israeli institutions rely almost entire on tier one, or equity, capital to cover their capital ratios. Tier two is deht

McEwen said Hapoalim was still financially strong even after the dividend payout but said the Bank of Israel aimed to discourage any further payouts.

This is a signal from the Bank of Israel, to Hapoalim in particular, telling them, "You have surplus capital, but frankly you don't bave so much, so no more one-off returns." he said.

Raising capital adequacy ratios is one of a series of moves aimed at tightening standards. Last year, the central bank adjusted the official calculation for risk-weighted assets and sometime this year it will likely revise regulations to conform with new BIS rules on capital coverage

Asian car market seen bottoming out in 1999

SINGAPORE (AFP) -German carmaker Bayerische Motoren Werke AG (BMW) expects the Asian car market to bottom out this year after a 20 per cent annual fall in 1998 to 5.28 million units, company officials have said.

In the luxury car market where BMW competes, the fall was an even more severe 30 per cent from 1997 - which was a record year for BMW in the region — as the recession in Japan, South East Asia and South Korea hit rich Asians. BMW Group sales in Asia

Half of U.S. households had

a personal computer in '98 — study

SAN JOSE, California continues to increase at a increase in penetration is

director for Dataquest's

"There is evidence that

consumer market research.

the first-time buyers are

coming from households in

the lower socio-economic

however,

healthy clip, showing that the PC is rapidly becoming a standard household appli-ance," said Van Baker, for personal computers

the record high of close to 100,000 units in 1997. BMW also owns the Rover brand and last year bought the high-end carmaker Rolls Royce. Deliveries of BMW-brand

cars in Asia fell to 49,500 units in 1998, down 22.3 per cent, but its share of the luxury market rose by two points to 27 per cent, thanks in part to new models in the entry-level BMW 3 series.

Land Rover vehicle sales dropped 44.5 per cent to 5,303 units, while Rover car sales fell 36.8 per cent to 15.168. Both dropped 28 per cent to about brands, based in Britain, were 70,000 yehicles last year from "affected by an overvalued

for personal computers

increased seven per cent

over 1997, when 43 per cent

of U.S. households had a

PC. In 1996, home market

penetration for personal

computers was 36 per cent.

Luder Paysen, BMW AG's

pound," a company statement

director of overseas sales, said the company remains commit-ted to Asia and will press ahead with the construction this year of an assembly plant in eastern Thailand, its first in the region. I cannot think of a stronger commitment for our presence

in Asia," he said in a statement, adding that BMW group sales losses in Asia were outweighed by gains in Europe and North America. BMW will also open 36 new

or upgraded group facilities in Asia this year and launch four new products in the region the BMW 3 series coupe, the 3 series touring edition, the Land Rover Discovery and the Rover 75, which will be the standard bearer of the brand. "BMW's development in

sia was based on our longterm commitment to the Asian region. As promised last year, BMW neither scaled down its operations in Asia nor did we hold back with planned projects," Paysen said.

Central London tops EU wealth league

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) - Central London is the European Union's (EU's) ricbest region, top-ping an EU league table which has Greece's Epirus at the bottom.

On a national level, the report from the EU's statistics office. Eurostai, confirmed Luxembourg, Denmark and Austria as the EU's three per capita wealthiest nations. Spain, Portugal and Greece are the poorest.

Central London has more than double the EU average income and edged out two German regions, Hamburg and Darmstadt, for the top regional honours. Brussels was fourth and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg fifth.

Aside from Epirus, which borders Albania, the poorest regions were the Portuguese Atlantic Ocean archipelagos of Madeira and the Azores. Greece's Northern Aegean islands and Extremadura in western Spain.

Inner London region enjoys a purchasing power per head of 38,529 euros (\$43.152) compared with the EU average of 17,377 euros (\$19,462). Purchasing power in Epirus given as just 7,538 euros (\$8,442).

The EU is currently gripped by a debate over the sbare-out of a development aid programme for poorer regions that will be worth up to 275 billion euros (\$308 billion) from 2000-2006.

EU leaders are sched-uled to hold two special summits on the issue over the next few weeks.

The latest report showed 50 regions currently fall bellow 75 per cent of the EU average, the threshold for regions able to claim the highest levels of EU aid. The whole of Greece and seven of the eight Portuguese regions were helow the 75 per cent level.

The Irish community in Jordan extend their sincerest condolences to the Royal family on the passing of His Majesty King Hussein

May he rest in peace

Maria Khan, on behalf of the Pakistan Women's Association, offers sincere condolences to His Majesty King Abdullah, the Royal Hashemite Family and the people of Jordan on the passing of His Majesty King Hussein. May his soul rest in peace

The employees of Amoco Jordan extend to His Majesty King Abdullah, the Hashemite family and the Jordanian people their heartfelt condolences and sorrow at the loss of His Majesty King Hussein Ben Talal May his soul rest in peace

THE GERMAN SPEAKING LADIES, GSL, in Jordan mourns with deepest sadness and grief, the loss of **His Majesty** King Hussein Ben Talal The Great King of Wisdom and Peace and would like to extend to **His Majesty** King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, The Hashemite family and Jordanian people Their Deepest Condolences and Sympathy

May God Rest His Soul In Peace

YOU BELONG TO GOD AND YOU

RETURN TO HIM

Jordan Times, Thursday-Friday, February 11-12, 1999

PHILADELPHIA (R) — The Philadelphia Sixers overcame Grant Hill's 32 points and improved to 3-0 for the first time in 14 years with a 90-86 victory over the previously unbeaten Detroit Pistons on Tuesday.

Allen Iverson, shooting erratically this season, was only 6-of-20 from the field en route to 19 points and added just one assist but Philadelphia coach Larry Brown credited his

all-around play for the team's great start.

"Allen has been playing defence as well as he has since I've heen here." Brown said. "When he penetrates, he commands such attention, it allows us to get offensive boards. He's playing his man well and making good reads. His presence commands double-teams and makes everyone else better.

"He doesn't need to score 30 points for us to win."

Iverson is shooting 27 per cent (15-of-55) for the season. but surprising Philadelphia keeps winning. The last time the Sixers started a season this well was 1984-85, when they won their first five

"I'm not frustrated at all," Iverson said. "I have another game coming up, as long as there is tomorrow, everything is all right with me. l can play 10 more bad games in a row as long as we win, I'm fine. I'm

The Pistons, who had 13 shots blocked, surrendered a 13-5 run in the fourth quarter that turned a threepoint lead into an 87-82 deficit with 1:22 remaining,

"Our only offence is a good defence." Brown said. And yet we're winning because we have good defence and make the hustle plays.

Detroit tired near the end, playing for the third time in



Toronto Raptors Charles Oakley (R) tries to block Milwaukee Bucks Ray Allen from making a shot during first half NBA action on Tuesday. This was the Raptors home opener in the shortened basketball season. Milwaukee beat Toronto 91-77 (Reuters photo)

Miami are the other teams to play three straight days in this lockout-compressed season — and all have lost

In Chicago, playing with-out Michael Jordan in a home opener for the first

Atlanta Hawks posted an 87-71 victory.

Toni Kukoc made just 6of-21 from the field and finished with 16 points to lead Chicago.

ln Dallas, Karl Malone time since 1994, the Bulls scored 31 points and were torched for 30 points grabbed 12 rebounds as the opener on Friday and dealt

by Steve Smith as the Utah Jazz got off to their first 3-0 start this decade with a 90-79 victory over the Mavericks.

The Jazz, who dropped three of their first four games last season, defeated their NBA finals nemesis. the Bulls, in their season

their Western Conference rivals, the Los Angeles Lakers, a 100-91 defeat on

Sixers stay unbeaten dealing Pistons first loss

In Phoenix, Chris Webber had his second straight monster game with 28 points and 20 rebounds as the Sacramento Kings won in the valley of the Suns for the first time in over 11 years, 112-95.

The enigmatic Webber dominated again just two days after getting 25 points, 15 rebounds, eight assists and nine blocked shots in a win over Vancouver.

Rookie Jason Williams added 22 points for the Kings, who snapped a 24game losing streak in Phoenix that dated back to January 1988.

Tom Gugliotta scored 26 points to lead Phoenix, which lost for the first time in three games. Coach Danny Ainge was ejected with 9:33 left in the fourth quarter for arguing a fla-grant foul call against Gugliotta.

In Minneapolis, Stephon Marbury hit the go-ahead jumper with 43 secoods remaining and Timberwolves avenged their only loss with a 74-70 victory over the San Antonio Spurs

It was the Wolves' second wio io three games and paid back the Spurs for Saturday's 96-82 beating.

Malik Sealy came off the beoch to lead Minoesota with 16 points. David Robinson netted 16

points and grabbed 11 rebounds to lead the Spurs, who have dropped consecutive games after winning their first two contests.

In Miami, Antoine Walker tallied 31 points and 10 rebounds and rookie Paul Pierce added 17 of his 19 points in the second half to lift the Boston Celtics to a 108-101 victory over the weary Heat.

Tim Hardaway scored 24 points and Terry Porter



against the Milwaukee Bucks on Tuesday. This game was the Raptors home opener in the shortened basketball season. On the left is Bucks Tyrone Hill and on the right Raptors Charles Oakley. Milwaukee beat Toronto 91-77 (Reuters photo)

added 21 for the Heat, who Paul Westphal, is off to a 3- the fourth quarter to spoil were playing for the third 0 start for the first time the Raptors last game in consecutive day.

In Seattle, Gary Payton netted 20 points in just three quarters as the SuperSonics scored a 90-71 wire-to-wire win over the Golden State Warriors. Seattle, under new coach

since beginning the 1993-94 campaign with 10 straight victories. Golden State is 0-3.

In Toronto, Ray Allen scored 17 points and the Milwaukee Bucks used an the Raptors' last game in Maple Leaf Gardens, 91-

The Raptors host the Washington Wizards at SkyDome in nine days. before moving into the At. Canada Centre on February

U.S. coach still basking in glory of victory over Germany

NEW YORK (AP) — Very States' three-loss and leave about the victory slowing careful not to gloat. Bruce performance at the World derision of the United States Arena still was basking in the glory Tuesday of his first victory as the U.S. national team coach — a 3-0 domination of three-time World

Cup champion Germany. "I thought we were going to play a good game," Arena said about Saturday's friendly in Jacksonville, Florida, "Certainly it's easy to say that in hindsight. But I thought we had a chance of getting a result.

"As you witnessed, we played extremely well. Some critics might say that Germany did not have their full team, but neither did

"That day we were pretty good."

result raitled Germany's soccer establishment and opened eyes around the world, particularly considering the United

Cup, which included a 2-0 defeat to Germany.

Many pundits have lamented Germany's poor performance Saturday, but, noting the U.S. domination of Bolivia in a 0-0 draw in another friendly on Jan. 24, Arena says Saturday's victory was due more to the Americans good play than the Germans' lack of form. "A lot of it was due to our

team," Arena said. "The Germans came in fully prepared, trained accordingly and tried to win. We played well; they certainly didn't play well. "In Bolivia, we were

equally as dominant, just not as lucky. "Maybe the signs are

there, maybe we have the potential to be a really good

Arena seemed more happy

as a soccer nation, particularly following the disastrous World Cup.

"It says a lot. It says we're more competitive than we were 10 years ago, 20 years ago," Arena said. "Does it say we've arrived, no. But we're making progress. That's important.

"For some reason, there was this bad reading out of the World Cup that U.S. soccer had hit bottom again. But that's not the case. We're one of eight-to-10 countries that's been in last three consecutive World

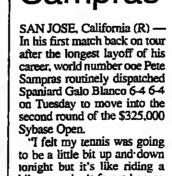
"Our young players are getting better, some are just getting their first or second caps. But it was not totally surprising."

While much has been made of the fact that all three goals were scored by team is no good."

German-based Arena was quick to defend Major League Soccer, pointing out that Tony Sanneh, who scored the second of the three goals in a 10-minute span during the first half, only transferred from D.C. United to Hertha Berlin in the last month.

"Of what we had on the field, nine players play in MLS, so you can make own judgements," Arena said. "MLS is a good league, it's not the best league. I woo't say it's one of the best five or one of the best 10. But we've demonstrated in short time, that we can produce teams that can play with best teams in world.

"Eddie Pope is an MLS product: Chris Armas is an MLS product. We've a long way to go, but I don't accept that the league is no good and therefore the national



Norway's Kjetil Andre Aamodt sticks his tongue out as he poses with teammate Lasse Kjus (L) and Switzerland's Paul Accola (R) after winning the gold medal in the men's combined event at the World Alpine Skiing Championships on Tuesday. Aamodt won his second gold medal of the championship with a gold in the Men's Super-G (Reuters photo)

Nike splits with Italian federation in cost-cutting move

BEAVERTON, Oregon (AP) - Nike bas parted ways with the Italian soccer federation (FIGC), company announced.

In a meeting with financial analysts, Nike officials informed the FIGC Tuesday that it will no longer sponsor the Italian national teams, a deal that was costing Nike \$15 million a year.

While losing the sponsorship of a powerhouse team such as Italy would have been unthinkable for Nike in past years, the announcement drew praise from Wall Street analysts, who say the move is evidence Nike is serious about cutting costs. Tom Clarke, Nike president and chief operating officer.

told analysts that the Beaverton company return to sales growth in its 2000 fiscal year, which begins June 1. "We're poised to have steady improvement," Clarke said.

He did warn, however, that the turnaround will be slow and

"I think we have to be clear: We're not going to explode

Ongoing fiscal discipline is key, executives said. Forgoing a cootinuing relationship with the Italian federation, seeo as a jewel of the company's soccer sports marketing programme, is proof of that, said Ian Todd, Nike's vice president for sports

marketing.
"This is definitely a new Nike," analyst Dana Cohen

Nike has cut its selling, general and administrative costs from \$ 2.8 billion in its 1998

The cuts included eliminating staff and moving headquarters of Nike's Asia-Pacific main office from Hong Kong to Beaverton for a savings of dlrs 150 million. The company could trim another \$50 million through a new procurement system that reduces the number of Nike's suppliers.

Nike has also cut back on filling new positions and taken to paying lower fees for athlete

Sampras not rusty in first match of year

bike, you don't forget how to do it," said the 27-year-old Sampras, a two-time champioo in San Jose.

"But I've been training and processing pretty hard and I played real solid." Mark Third seed

Philippoussis of Australia barely survived his first-round tussle with Armenia's Sargis Sargsian, prevailing 6-7 (2-7) 7-5 6-3. Philippoussis could meet Sampras in the semifi-

Sampras, who had not played since the ATP Championships November, showed little rust in countering the Spaniard's heavy topspin ground attack. frequently chipping and charging and dominating his own service games. He won 97 per cent of his first-serve

"If there's one shot that 1 don't lose over a long span of time it's my serve and I relied on it tonight," said Sampras, who faced no break points in the match and delivered 11

"As the match went on 1 started to feel the hall pretty good and hit groundies pretty clean. I was a little surprised because I thought 1 might

struggle a little bit, so it was a

good start." During his layoff, the 11time Grand Slam champion put down his racket for a mooth and travelled to Hawaii on his first vacation in 10

"For what I accomplished last year, I felt like I deserved to take a break, not just for my tennis but for my life," said Sampras, who spent most of last fall playing in Europe in order to break Jimmy Connors all-time record of five years as the year-end

The plans of former number one Jim Courier to reenter the top 50 in San Jose hit a roadblock when he was upended by Dutchman John Van Lottum on Tuesday 6-4 7-6

Now ranked 68th, the American still thinks he has an outside shot of reaching the top again, but realises that at age 28 it may only be a pipe

That's not what I'm playing for and I realise it would be close to a miracle for it to happen again, but 1'm not going to rule it out altogether," Courier said.

Van Lottum reached the



Pete Sampras (file photo)

semifinals here last year but spent the latter part of 1998 battling an ankle injury. He said that despite Courier's low ranking, notching a win over a four-time Grand Slam champion is still huge.

"On a day when he plays well, he can still beat a lot of good players," said Van Lottum, who added that the game has changed since Courier bullied the tour as its top dog in 1992.

"You cannot win just hitting as hard as you can from the back. You need to be able to mix it up, play some serve and volley.

Van Lottum exploited Courier's weaker backhand side and took over the net in key situations.

"Jim plays the same rhythm so if you know how to control his rhythm, give him some slice and high balls, he had difficulty." Van Lottum said. Olympic inds imp

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Iran's refo commitme

THEAN APPA -- transact Mohammad. bittem inaugurated a vast the sports complex for domit government's . modinent to get women

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Our requirements defibilely outstip our means but we must do something shout it." he admitted as he inaugurated the 85,000 quare-metre complex in one of Tehran's poorer dis-

The centre will allow women and children to take Part in sports ranging from shooting, gymnastics and lande tennis, to volleyball, bakethall and swimming, fran 211-year-old slamic regime has restrict d women's paidoor sports o activities that allow them to keep their hair and bodies fully covered in accordance with Islamic modesty rules. But women seem to have

WASHINGTON (AFP) lyon entenced last for to a year in prison or punching and kicking automobile drivers. could possibly save his
Greer by going to jail.

Tyson lawyers

luesday said they had not yet decided whether appeal the ruling hersh boxing champion that be in his best inter-

Olympic ethics panel finds improper payments

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — An ethics panel implicated 10 more members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in a report that detailed the extreme means Salt Lake City used to land votes for the 2002 Winter Games.

The 10 IOC members were not previously fied to Salt Lake's excesses. That brings the number of those implicated in vote-buying schemes to 24 — roughly one-fifth of the IOC's total membership. Nine IOC members have been expelled or have resigned in the scandal.

And, for the first time, the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) was fled to the corruption scandal. The panel reported that a series of exchanges among three senior staffers involved promises ... made to secure

In yet another sethack for Olympic leaders, a major sponsor, John Hancock Insurance, said it was cancelling negotiations with NBC for \$20 million in advertisements. The company said it was protesting the IOC's failure to deal with the growing scandal.

Free trips 10 the Super Bowl, stays in ritzy Paris hotels, ski vacations and fistfuls of casb were among improper perks and payments cited in the 300-page report by an independent ethics panel for the Salı Lake Organising Committee.

It blamed two men for the pandering: Tom Welch. president of the Salı Lake bid committee, and David Johnson, his vice president. Welch and Johnson have

denied wrongdoing.

Members of the bid board were not told of direct cash payments or details of bogus scholarships, and outside auditors failed to raise red flags about those expenditures, said David Jordan, a former U.S. attorney on the five-member

ethics panel.

The ethics panel did not total the amounts, but the improper payments some in the form of scholarships - exceeded \$1 million. Another \$1 million in air fare, botel rooms and shopping sprees were donated to the bid committee and passed along to IOC members.

According to the report, Welcb even made a wire transfer from his children's trust account when the wife of Siuli Paul Wallwork, the IOC member from Western Samoa, sought \$30,000 for a friend in a serious situanon. Welch later said the money had been repaid.

Wallwork was among the 10 newly implicated IOC members, although Phillip Coles of Austrália and Willi Kaltschmitt of Guatemala appear to bave benefited the most. The two men and their families made four vacation trips together to the United States, including a Super Bowl trip that cost the hid committee \$19,991.

Coles stepped down Wednesday from Sydney's organising committee board for the 2000 Summer Olympics, pending an IOC

inquiry.
The others newly implicated were Maj. Gen. Henry Edmund Olufemi Adefope, Nigeria; Ashwini Kumar, India: Sbagdarjav Magvan, Mongolia; Anani Matthia, Togo; Rampaul Ruhee, Mauridus; Austin Sealy, Barbados; and Mohamed Zerguini, Algeria.

IOC executive board delegaie Jacques Rogge, a member of the IOC's internal investigative panel, said he had not yet seen the report and could not comment in detail.

Rogge said the panel will review the report, but that a key issue will be to determine if members were guilty of actual ethical vio-

report cited the

USOC's involvement by detailing a November 1995 electronic-mail exchange among three USOC staff directors. It contained repeated references to an agreement to belp train athletes from the Sudan at USOC facilities as part of Salt Lake's campaign.

"A lot of promises were made to secure votes." wrote Alfredo La Mont, who, at the time, was the USOC's director for international relations.

When Jim Page, the committee's deputy executive director for programmes, balked at picking up Salt Lake's portion of the training cost after the city had won the 2002 Games, Tom Wilkinson, then assistant executive director, said it had to be paid because "a deal is a deal and Sudan delivered."

"May need Sudan again in future," Wilkinson wrote. "Don't burn bridges."

That appeared to be a reference to the Sudanese IOC member, Gen. Zein Al Abdin Ahmed Abdel Gadir, one of the nine IOC delegates who have been expelled or resigned.

The USOC denied that it was part of any quid pro

Meanwhile, D'Alessandro, president of John Hancock, was bitterly critical of most of the IOC leadership, including president Juan Antonio Samaranch.

He said he had stopped talks with NBC to pressure the network — the single biggest revenue source for the IOC with a \$3.57 billion

The ethics panel inquiry is just one of five investigations into Olympic misconduct. The others include probes by the IOC, USOC, Justice Department and Utah

Germany, Colombia play 3-3 tie

MIAMI (AP) - Germany and Colombia played to a 3-3 tie in a friendly match on Tuesday afternoon.

Germany's Michael Preetz and Colombia's Faustino Asprilla each scored two goals and had one assist in a wide open match before 14,565 speciators at the Orange Bowl.

Down 3-2 with 10 minutes remaining, Colombia tied the match on Ivan Cordoba's goal off a free kick from Asprilla.

Playing with a man advantage for the final 45 minutes after Colombia's Alexander Lemus was ejected with one minute remaining in the first half, Germany twice took one-goal leads, Colombia overcame both deficits.

Germany, trying to rehound from a 3-0 loss to the United States Saturday in Jacksonville, appeared to have secured the match when Marco Bode's header on a centering pass from Preetz gave the Germans a 3-2 lead at the 74th minute.

Germany had an earlier one-goal lead on Preetz's header that beat Colombian goalkeeper Oscar Cordoba at the 55th minute.

But seven minutes later, Colombia n'ed the match at 2, when Asprilla converted on a penalty kick. Referee Brian Hall whistled subsutute German goalkeeper



Colombia forward Faustino Asprilla (R) controls the ball as German defenders Christian Worns (4) follows in the first half of play on Tuesday at Miami's Orange Bowl stadium. The match ended in a 3-3 draw (Reuters photo)

Jens Lehman for fouling Colombia's Jorge Bermudez

inside the penalty area. Colombia took a 1-0 lead in the 26th minute when four players combined on Asprilla's goal.

Arley Betancourt fed a charging Neider Morantes inside the German goal area Colombia a second goal in

after a crossing pass from Henry Zamhrano. Just as Morantes attracted multiple coverage deep in the left-Kahn. Just as Colomhia seemed wing, he centered a pass to a wide open Asprilla, who beat goalkeeper easily

Oliver Kahn. Zambrano almost gave the 31st minute when his right foot blast from 18 yards was deflected hy

to dominate the action, Germany tied the match on Preetz's goal at the 33rd minute.

The goal was set when

Oliver Neuville took a long pass from Lothar Matthaus and blasted a shot deflected by goalkeeper Oscar Cordoba. Preetz took the deflection and drilled a shot in the lower right corner past goalkeeper Oscar Cordoba.

Earlier in the match, Preetz had a goal disallowed when he was whistled offside at the 14th minute.

Lineups: Colombia: Oscar Cordoha (gk); Ivan Cordoba; Foad Maziri; Jorge Bermudez (cpt.); Alexander Lemus; Mauricio Serna; Arely Betancourt (Leider Preciado, 46:00); Neider Morantes (Jorge Salcedo. (80:00); Jorge Bolanos (Mario Yepes, 46:00); Faustino Asprilla; Henry Zambrano (Edwin Congo,

Germany: Oliver Kahn (gk) (Jens Lehman, 46:00); Lothar Matthaus (cpt.); Markus Babbel: Christian Marko Rehmer; Worns: Andreas Moller; Oliver Neuville (Alexander Zickler, 74:00); Jens Jeremies (Christian Nerlinger, 46:00); Marco Bode: Marco Reicb (Lars Ricken, 78:00);

Matthaeus headed for MetroStars next year

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) - German veteran and former national team captain Lothar Matthaeus could be heading to New York/New Jersey MetroStars when his contract with Bayern Munich expires next year, a German newspaper said Wednesday.

The mass-circulation Bild said Matthaeus had been offered a contract by the MetroStars coach, Bora Milutinovic.

"I've always dreamed of New York," Bild quoted Matthaeus as saying. "I can well imagine a transfer once my contract with Bayern expires in 2000." "If I haven't bad enough by then, perbaps I'll play some more in the United States," he was quoted as sayMatthaeus, 37, was with Germany's national team in Florida, where the Germans lost 3-0 to the United States and drew 3-3 with Colombia on Tuesday.

The 37-year-old libero bas been heavily criticised for his poor performances in both

A veteran of a record 132 games for Germany, Matthaeus led the nation to the 1990 World Cup triumph in Italy. He was recalled to the national team last year before the World Cup in France after injuries ruled out several other players.

New coach Ericb Ribbeck has called Matthaeus a key element in his attempt to steer Germany successfully through the ongoing European Championship qualifica-

60:00).

But Matthaeus' failure to hold together Germany's leaky defense during the Florida trip raised questions in the German press whether time bad finally caught up with the long-serving star.

However, Milutinovic was quoted by Bild as saying that be would take Matthaeus

Bild has been one of the strongest Matthaeus backers and led last year's media campaign to have him recalled to the nation-

Iran's reformist president underlines commitment to women's sports

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian President Mohammad President Khaiami inaugurated a vast new sports complex for women and children on Wednesday, as part of his reformisi government's commitment to get women out of the home.

"Iranian society is more than ever in need of vitality." said Khatami, whose election victory in 1997 was mainly due to the votes of women and youngsters.

"Our requirements definitely outsrip our means but we must do something about it," he admitted as he inaugurated the 85,000 square-metre complex in one of Tehran's poorer dis-The centre will allow

women and children to take part in sports ranging from shooting, gymnastics and table tennis. 10 volleyball, haskerball and swimming. 20-year-old lran's Islamic regime has restricted women's outdoor sports to activities that allow them to keep their hair and

accordance with Islamic modesiy rules. But women seem to have

bodies fully covered in



Iranian girls play bowling in Tehran, on Tuesday, as Iran continues to celebrate the Islamic revolution's 20th anniversary. The Islamic authorities have staged a carnival parade and a pop festival to help young people to identify with the 10 days of festivities

gained greater confidence Rafsanjani, has provoked expressed concern that since Khatami's election. Faezeh Hashemi, MP and daughter of Iran's former up cycling and foothall. President Akbar Hashemi

the ire of conservatives for Hardline papers bave gaze of men.

women playing foothall in encouraging women to take sborts and tops will expose themselves to the illicit

NBA injury fears coming true Washington (Wednesday) without him,

NEW YORK (AFP) — Fears of a rash of injuries with out-of-shape players and a in the National Basketball Association (NBA) after only five days of a shortened

New York's Latrell Sprewell will miss three 10 six weeks with a stress fracture in his right heel while top rival Miami lost forward Voshon Leonard and guard Jamal Mashburn to serious leg injuries.

Sprewell's return to the NBA after choking his coach and being suspended last season, was cut to only two games due to

This is a microscopic fracture of the heel," said Norman Scott, the Knicks' team physician. "No surgery will be required. Latrell will wear a walking boot to provide stress relief. This will have no long-term effect on his future."

Sprewell, who will continue to bicycle and swim for fitness, started at small forward on one of the NBA's smallest lineups. He scored 24 points in the opener against Orlando but missed 10 of 12 shots Sunday in an 83-79 loss to Miami.

"I feel badly for Latrell, but the reality is being obtained from Golden State. we now have 10 get ready in face

said Knicks coach Jeff Van Gundy. "We heeric schedule of games have come true expect Latrell's rehabilitation to go smoothly so he can get back into the lineup as soon as possible."

Sprewell averaged 14.5 points and 6.0 rebounds through the first two games.

"Obviously, I'm disappointed," Sprewell said. "I had every intention of playing tomorrow, but the injury was more than I thought. I will do everything I can to remain in the best shape possible while my heel improves so I can get back on the court as soon as possible."

A three-time All-Star with a history of trouble with reammates, coaches and management, Sprewell was suspended without pay for the final 68 games of the 1997-98 season for twice attacking Warriors coach P.J. Carlesimo during a practice on

December I, 1997. Sprewell's suspension was the longest non-drug ban in league history. Initially, he was suspended for one year without pay by the NBA, with the Warriors terminating his contract, which had two-plus years and nearly \$25 million dollars remaining after

union against the NBA and the Warriors. On March 4, 1998, an arbitrator reinstated Sprewell's contract and reduced his suspension by five months. The ban cost him \$6.4 million, but be has two years at \$17.3 million remaining on his contract.

Miami's Mashburn, 26, will be out at least two weeks. He is suffering from a severe bone bruise in his left knee and a quadriceps sprain.

The injured knee will be placed in a brace for a brief time and he will have to undergo rehabilitation before returning to

Mashhum was off to a quick start for the Heat, with 42 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists in his first two games as Miami

went 1-1. The news for Lenard, 25, is much worse. The outside threat has a stress fracture in his left thia and opted for surgery. He is expected to miss at least eight to 10 weeks,

which could mean the season. Lenard began the season on the injured list after entering training camp with ailment and was originally expected to miss three weeks. He attempted to play through the injury in the final preseason contest but

Osaka spends \$19m to get Olympics

Sprewell filed grievances through the

Olympics, Japan's second-largest city of Osaka has spent 2.2 billion yen tS19 million) in five years, an Osaka city official said Wednesday.

In doing so, the city has already matched the total amount spent by the Olympic bid committee of Nagano, the host of the 1998 Winter Olympic Games.

The Osaka Olympic bid committee's bill includes 554 Samaranch. Nishino said.

TOKYO (AP) — In its drive to host the 2008 Summer million yen (\$4.8 million) spent on planning and 1.7 billion yen (SI4 million) spent on public relations and social events, Osaka city hall official Yosbihiko Nishino said.

The committee has also bought gifts for officials of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The most expensive was a set of memorial stamps and wine glasses worth 53,000 yen (\$462) given to IOC President Antonio

Imprisonment might help U.S. boxer Mike Tyson save career

WASHINGTON (AFP) — U.S. boxer Mike Tyson, sentenced last week to a year in prison for punching and kicking two automobile drivers. could possibly save his career by going to jail.

law vers Tyson's Tuesday said they had not yet decided whether to appeal the ruling against the former heavyweight boxing champion because doing so might not be in his hest interThe reasoning is that Tyson, who is 32, might

be able to resume training and even professional fighting sooner if he is imprisoned, according to local corrections services spokeswoman Claire

Kirby. His attorneys could appeal the sentence and try to have the fighter released on bond within 30 days, but that would risk conviction in a cir-

cuit court and a stiffer punishment if the ofitroubled champion is found guilty.

With an Indiana judge ready to consider whether or not Tyson has violated probation from a 1992 rape conviction, the former champion could serve three to seven more years locked up, effectively ending his career.

within the system, hope

Alternatively, Tyson's attorneys can try to work

Tyson is out of jail by September "on good behaviour" and try to fulfill terms of a \$33 million deal for staging four fights in Las Vegas.

According to Kirby, anyone sentenced to 12 months in prison in Montgomery County, Maryland — where Tyson was sentenced may be transferred to a rehabilitation centre as soon as they are within six months of release.

Once there, detainees may be allowed to go to work outside prison in their chosen field.

"Mr. Tyson is a boxer,

so we would work with him to continue in that profession," Kirby said. In fact, she said, depending on Tyson's attitude and behaviour in coming weeks, he could be transferred to such a rehabilitation centre in as little as two to three

If he were to want to participate in a boxing match, be would need to petition a judge for permission to travel, for his

work." authorisations Sucb have been granted before, she said.

Tyson also could be paid for such a fight, though 20 per cent of his earnings would go to corrections authorities as repayment for the expense of his room and board in prison. Tyson pleaded no con-

test to charges he kicked and punched two male motorists, ages 50 and 63, whose car rear-ended one being driven by his wife near bere on August

But it remains to be seen whether he will be allowed to keep his boxing licence, which he had recovered in October after 16 months of suspension for having bitten

the ear of his opponent Evander Holyfield during a boxing match.

The court in Indiana has yet to rule on the consequences of Tyson's latest conviction, which occurred while the heavyweight boxer was out of prison on probation "for good conduct" after serving three and a half years of a six-year sentence for rape.



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Russia accuses West of trying to 'buy' foreign policy changes

Western officials are trying to blackmail Russia into dramatic foreign policy changes by linking vital financial aid to shifts in Moscow's stance on everything from Iran to missile defence, a government offi-cial said Wednesday.

A spokesman for econoniv chief Yury Maslyukov iold AFP that U.S. officials were privately urging a range of policy U-turns in exchange for the billions of dollars of debt relief which Moseow desperately needs this year.

"Officially the question was not put, but unofficially they are seeking changes in Russia's foreign policy stance." spokesman, Anton Surikov.

His comments amounted to the first direct admission from Moscow that the broke government was being pressured into dumping foreign policies which have irked Washington.

The accusations are likely to do little for relations between Russia and the Monetary International Fund (IMF), which has proven reluctant to throw its weight behind Maslyukov's plans for economic recovery and grant the financial sup- Prime Minister Yevgeny

pressure on Russia's creaking budget.

The IMF representative in Moscow was unavailable to comment on the allegations Wednesday evening.

Surikov said that in order to get the IMF's seal of approval, Russia was being urged to break off all forms of cooperation with Iran "not just those which are banned by international

The Western officials, who Surikov said were "not European and not Asian" also want Moscow to agree to changes in the 1972 Anti-Ballisuc Missile Treaty. renounce a host of lucrative military exports and voluntarily reduce its quota of commercial satellite launch-

Asked whether the officials were seeking a softening of Russia's stance on Kosovo and Iraq, Surikov said: "They are seeking to put pressure on these lines of Russian foreign policy. If we agree then they will quickly agree to a restructuring of foreign debt,"

But if Russia did not agree, the U.S. officials had warned in sinister fashion,

port which could ease the Primakov's government changes to the ABM treaty could fall prey to an orchestrated media campaign at home, according to Surikov.

"They said the government could come under media pressure," he said. "The government would be criticised within the country for not being able to agree with international financial organisations. But as soon as we make the political concessions and agree, then the internal criticism would be removed."

The Russian media has been furiously speculating in recent days that Maslyukov will be ousted from the government.

Russia desperately needs to reach an agreement with international creditors on restructuring some \$17.5 hillion in foreign debt which matures this year.

But its efforts to win over the international financial community have been hamstrung by worsening relations with Washington over a host of foreign policy issues.

Russia and the United States have crossed swords over Kosovo and Iraq, they have argued over Moscow's close collaboration with Iran over nuclear power plants and also disagree on

sought by Washington.

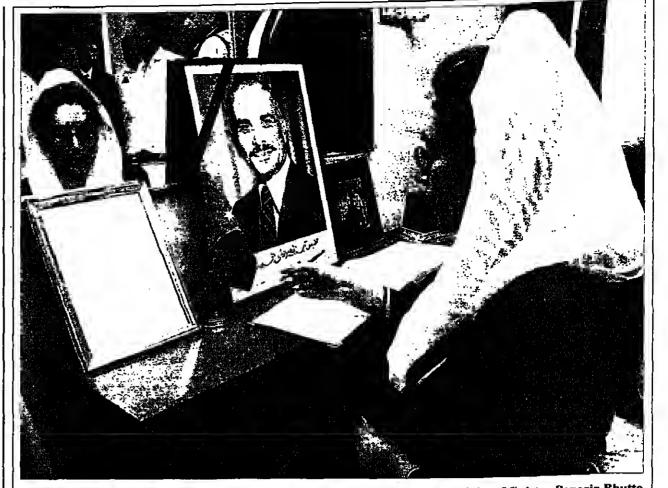
After talks with his U.S. counterpart Madeleine Albright last month, Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov rejected suggestions that Russia was vulperable to U.S. pressure because of its financial woes saying: "We are not selling out our national interests."

While frosty hüateral ties have persisted, there have been scant signs of a breakthrough with the IMF. which pulled a team out of Moscow last weekend and said no agreement had been reached.

Former Russian premier and liberal reformer Yegor Gaidar said Wednesday that the IMF was night to play tough with the new government, but remained convinced that the West was not out to bankrupt Russia.

"For them to continue granting us loans, we must show the IMF how we plan to repay them," Gaidar told a press conference.

As long as the Russian government is incapable of spelling out a programme explaining what it plans to do, it would be dangerous for the IMF" to grant a new loan, Gaidar said.



CONDOLENCES FROM KARACHI: Opposition leader and former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto signs a condolence book Wednesday at the Jordanian consulate in Pakistan's southern city of Karachi for the late King Hussein (AFP photo)

Khatami names new intelligence chief

TEHRAN (AP) — President Mohammad Khatami nominated Wednesday Iran's chief military prosecutor to be minister of intelligence, a day after the minister resigned because of a scandal involving the killing of dissidents.

Tehran Radio said the parliament would be asked to approve Ali Yunesi, 43, as the new minister.

As chief military prosecutor, Yunesi led the investigation into the series of killings of writers and dissidents that

resulted in the intelligence ministry's disclosure Jan. 5 that some of its agents had been arrested in connection with the five deaths. On Tuesday, official media

began in November. His probe

announced that the president had accepted Qorbanali Dorri-Najafabadi's resignation over the affair. There had been persistent

calls for him to step down. Yunesi was one of the founders of the intelligence ministry after the 1979

Before the revolution, Yunesi was involved in underground activities against the The revelation of the state's involvement in the slaying of

Islamic revolution that ousted

the U.S.-backed shah. He later

served as prosecutor general

of the Iranian capital, Tehran.

government opponents intensified the nvalry between hard-line and moderate factions in the Islamic government

Netanyahu summons chief rabbis over remarks

Both sides, locked in a hitter

power struggle, have tried to distance themselves from the killings. The agents behind the killings are widely believed to be supporters of the hardliners. The intelligence ministry is controlled by the hardline faction.

The ministry blamed 'for-eign elements' for the killings and denied that senior officers had approved them.

Moderates loyal Khatami's have called for a purge of the intelligence min-istry.

NEWS IN BRIEF

More than 300 missing after ship sinks

JAKARTA (AP) - Rescue teams in Indonesia searched in vain Wednesday for up to 312 people who were on board a passenger ship that sank in stormy seas between the islands of Borneo and Sumatra. So far, 19 people have been rescued. But hopes of finding more survivors were fading four days after the disaster, the latest in a string of similar sea tragedies in this archipelago nation of 210 million people. The newspaper Kompas reported that the Harta Rimba, with 325 passengers and seven crew, took on water in bad weather and sank after being swamped hy waves Saturday night off Tumbelan Island, about 800 kilometres north of Jakarta, Indonesia's capital, Officials on nearby Riau Island said nine people were rescued Monday and 10 were picked up Tuesday. One body was also found. The rest were missing.

Yeltsin plans joint nuclear command

MOSCOW (AP) -- Plans to unite Russia's nuclear forces under a single command will be finalised by May, Defence Minister Igor Sergeyev said Wednesday. Sergeyev met with President Bons Yeltsin in the Kremlin to discuss the military reform, which includes a proposal to create a joint command to control land-based strategic missiles and the nuclear components of Russia's air force and navy, the Interfax news agency said. Each command has been run separately since Soviet times. The plan is part of the govemment's effort to streamline Russia's sprawling and underfunded military. Last year. Russia merged the air force with its air defence troops. Sergeyev hailed the move Wednesday, saying it has allowed the military to cut spending and made the new force more flexible.

Iran test-flies domestic helicopters

TEHRAN (AFP) - Iran showed off two domesticallyproduced combat helicopters on Wednesday, as part of its programme for military self-sufficiency, Iranian President Mohammad Khatanu and his Defence Minister Ali Shamkhani saw the test flight of the new lighdy-armed Shabaviz 2-75 capable of carrying up to 14 passengers. state radio said. "The helicopter has a flight range of 500 kilometres and can fly at an altitude of 12,600 feet." it said. The army also displayed an Iranian-designed reconnaissance helicopter, dubbed 2061, which can carry up to five people, and U.S. made Cobra helicopters, repaired by Iranian engineers after being damaged in the 1980-88 war

Five people killed in Algeria ambush

ALGIERS (AFP) - An armed Islamist group killed five people and wounded two others in an ambush in eastern Algeria, while a parliamentarian was badly injured in another attack, press reports said on Wednesday. Among those killed in the ambush in the northeastern Tebessa region were a former mayor of Mazraa and a member of a self-defence group, or GLD, one of the militias authorised by the government to resist Islamist insurgents. Two other papers said that a member of parliament from the minority Rally for Culture and Democracy Party (RCD), Abdou Amarouche, was shot and seriously hurt on Tuesday at Ighram village in the Bouira region, 120 kilometres east of Algiers. Amarouche was walking into a cafe when unidenuffed people in a car opened fire on him, the dailies Al Khabar and Al Watan reported.

'Bahrain wants closer ties with U.K.'

MANAMA (AFP) - Buhrain's Emir Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa on Wednesday called for strengthened military ties with London during talks with British Defence Secretary George Robertson here. The emir pledged "Buhrain's keenness in increasing the volume of joint cooperation with Britain in various fields, including the military domain." the official GNA news agency said. He also stressed "Bahrain's desire to enhance security and peace in the Arabian Gulf region," the agency added.

Yemeni murderer publicly executed

SANAA (AFP) - A Yemeni found guilty of murder was publicly executed in the southeastern province of Bayda on Wednesday, the official SABA news agency said. The man was executed in front of the relatives of the person he murdered in what was the fourth execution this year.

France blasts Iraq sanctions as 'useless and cruel'

PARIS (AFP) - French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine denounced U.N. sanctions on Iraq as "use-less and cruel" Wednesday as he renewed calls for a new international approach to neutralising Baghdad's weapons programme. In an address to the

National Assembly, Vedrine said France had made "strong" and "coherent" proposals to the U.N. Security Council to ease tensions with Iraq. These proposals "would allow us to truly move for-

ward hy lifting the embargo, which has shown itself to he useless and cruel, while simultaneously imposing controls over any potential weapons programs and the revenues" from the renewed

oil exports, Vedrine said. The French foreign minister added that it was up to the U.N. Security Council to decide whether to change the sanctions regime against Iraq. "France is working towards that end," he said. The United Nations

imposed the oil embargo on Iraq following its 1990 invasion of Kuwait and the sanctions can only be lifted when U.N. arms experts certify that Baghdad has scrapped its weapons of mass destruction. The U.N. arms experts

bowever have not been allowed in Iraq since the United States and Britain launched the Desert Fox air campaign against Iraq in

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu summoned Israel's chief rabhis Wednesday after leading Orthodox clerics threatened an uprising over supreme count rulings favouring religious plu-

Rabhi Israel Lau of the Ashkenazi or European community of Jews and Rabbi Eliyahu Bakshi-Doron who represents Sephardi or Oriental Jews, were called to an urgent meeting Wednesday evening with Netanyahu, officials said. Attorney General Eliyakim Rubinstein and Justice Minister Tsahi Hanegbi were

also to attend, Netanyahu's

The parliament was also monopoly over religious life in recalled from its pre-election Israel. recess to hold a special debate on the issue next week, offi-

The two chief rabbis had aligned themselves with ultra-Orthodox groups which have press conference Tuesday. launched a virulent campaign against the supreme court and plan to bold a mass street protest condemning the court's rulings on Sunday.

Netanyahu decided to step in after senior rabbis linked to religious parties in his coalition government denounced the high court as anti-Semitic and anti-religious for issuing a series of rulings challenging the Onthodox rabbinate's

"The courts and their antidemocratic rulings will cause a revolt," warned one rabbi, Moshe Gafni of the United

Torah Judaism party, said at a President Ezer Weizman rabbis Wednesday.

"I demand that these unbridled attacks on the supreme court stop immediately because they are undermining the entire judicial system." Weizman said in a statement issued by his office.

strictly Orthodox minority in

local religious councils in Israel must be open not only to the Orthodox but also to representatives of the liberal Reform and Conservative currents of Judaism. A lower count also recendy

recent months by ruling that

authorised Reform rabbis to joined a chorus of protests at carry out conversions to Judaism in Israel — a right previously restricted to the Orthodox religious establish-

Finally the high court ruled that certain businesses could remain open on the Jewish Sabbath and decided that exemptions from military ser-The high court infuriated the vice for Orthodox religious students were illegal.

Women on frontline in Qatar's first real elections

candidates or just voters. Qatari women will for the first time in a Gulf Arah monarchy take part in a real election on March 8.

Six women have already come forward as candidates along with almost 200 men to contest the polls for a new 29-member municipal couneil for Doha and the surrounding area.

For Qatar itself, the vote for a council with a four-year mandate will be its first real

'These elections will underline the right to take part for almost half of society." said Juhaina Saif Al Issa, dean of the sociology faculty at Qatar University. But she cautioned it was "only the beginning of a long

The women candidates, mostly university academics, said their immediate family or tribe had not raised objections, although some friends had mocked or criticised

DOHA (AFP) - Whether as their decision to run for are bedecked with posters office.

In an opinion poll in Al Watan newspaper, 72 per cent of women said they were in favour of taking part in the vote.

Qatar's conservative society, which is tribal based, "has its customs and habits, and, of course, every new development runs into obstacles at the start," said candidate Wadha Al Suweidi, another university faculty

She acknowledged having had "many difficulties" and encountering criticism of her decision. "But that's of secondary importance compared to the importance of the event," said Suweidi.

Another candidate, teacher Nisya Darwish, said her 10point platform for next month's election was based on "the family, the environment and helping the needy." Qatari newspapers are already filled with election platforms, while the roads

and banners. On relevision, the election

has been given a satirical air-A comedian on the satellite channel Al Jazira played the head of a committee special-

ly set up to encourage women to take part... but who refused to allow his own sister to run as candi-The issue of women taking

part has caused a sur in Quar, a small emirate on the verge of immense wealth because of its gas reserves. Last June, Muslim reli-

gious figures sent a petition to the emir. Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani. urging candidates to be limited to men in line with the Islamic principle of segrega-

But the petition has been ignored and the ruler's wife. Sheikha Moza, has held several open meetings to encourage women's partici-

She recently hosted Sheikha Fatima, wife of Emirati President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, who said she was given a first-band view of Qatar's experiment in modemisation and in strengthen-

ing the role of women.

The vote in the peninsular state, which has a population of 552.000 of whom some 100.000 are Qatari nationals, could serve as rehearsal for parliamentary elections, according to diplomats post-ed in Doha.

The emir announced on Nov. 16 a decision to appoint a committee of experts to draw up a permanent constitution which would provide for a directly-elected parlia-

Among the six Arab states of the region, only Kuwait has an elected parliament. but Kuwaiti women do not have the vote. In October, Oman set up an 82-member consultative council that includes women.

French reporters find evidence of mass grave from 1961

PARIS (R) — The French Communist were accompanied on their search by a weekly L'Humanite Hebdo said on Wednesday two of its reporters had found a mass grave containing human remains it suspected were from the bodies of Algerian protesters killed during a demonstration in 1961.

A state prosecutor said after seeing the report that he had ordered police to investigate the origins of bones found in an old garbage dump in Creteil, on the outskirts of Paris.

In a report to be published on Thursday, the two journalists said they found bones and pieces of skull from seven separate bodies. The reporters forensic expert, the paper said.

The reporters made the discovery during an investigation into circumstances surrounding the police killings of several dozen Algerian nationalists in a 1961 street demonstration.

The killings have drawn renewed attention in recent weeks because convicted Nazi collaborator Maurice Papon, who was Paris police chief at the time of the protests. is suing a historian who has accused him of responsibility in the matter.

The killings first resurfaced during Papon's trial for World War II crimes 17, 1961 protest.

against humanity that ended last year when he was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for helping deport Jews to Nazi death camps.

Papon, now free pending appeal, was convicted of ordering the arrest for deportation of 1.560 Jews between 1942 and 1944, when he was the number two official in France's Bordeaux region and supervisor of its Service for Jewish Questions.

The reporters for L'Humanite said they were taken to the grave after a reader told them that bodies had been dumped in the field after the October

Iranians urged to turn out in millions for revolution anniversary

Islamic regime is calling on Iranians to turn out in their millions Thursday in a bid to demonstrate its continuing power to mobilise exactly 20 years after the overthrow of the last imperial government. Every year the revolution's

enemies look carefully to see whether people will partici-pate. warned Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. 'Let people show them their continued support and backing for the revolution with their overwhelming presence." he

State institutions, political groups and media all urged people to turn out in huge numbers at the demonstrations planned in all of Iran's main cities.

Six large processions have been planned in the capital, converging on a vast square west of the capital where the shah built a triumphal arch to celebrate fran's modernising monarchy. Renamed Freedom Square

hy the Islamic authorities immediately after the revolution, each year it is the venue for the country's largest anniversary demonstration attended by hundreds of thousands of

But this year for the 20th unniversary, the authorities are calling for an even higger turnout than usual.

The regime's most popular figure, moderate President Mohammad Khatami, will

anend the demonstration, along

TEHRAN (AFP) - The with members of his reformist

government The government has worked hard to give this year's celebrations a genuinely popular flavour with the capital's main thoroughfares decked out with flowers, banners and coloured

In recent days state radio has broadcast a selection of old revolutionary songs, designed to remind Iranians of the heady days of the 1979 revolution, as well as cheerful tunes befitting what is meant to be a nationwide jamboree.

The conservative judiciary chief Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi said he would free an unspecified number of common-law prisoners to mark the anniversary of the revolution. Newspapers are full of

notices from private and stateowned companies congratulating the government and people on the anniversary, which state radio compared to the Eid Al Fitr holiday marking the end of Ramadan.

People have been urged to climb onto their balconies on Wednesday night to shout "Allah-u-Akbar" (God is Greatest), as they did 20 years ago in defiance of curfews imposed by the imperial govemment

But the authorities have been forced to acknowledge the mounting problems faced by ordinary people as a collapse in the value of Iran's main export oil has led to a worsening economic crisis here.

Bangladesh PM to visit Jordan

Samuel Manual Comment

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Algeria to elect President on Apr. 15

Specie missing after the

Albitras (AFP) — Algeria all falls a fre-alemaal election is April 15. President Personal Name of the Name of Street, Name of S in broken in a redirectly tele-

TV cameraman abducted in Beirut

BEIRT AFPI - A kky har am green in has been kel happed in southern Berns for having a read watte received tree sports and Fridge. The reports and that the wife of Manmored Jaffat, who werte for the collected Test Leboner dation told police that the ca driven by her husband was it collinear with a white Mee rede with three unknown People incide. She said he wa besten up and then taken awa Tele Lebenon consenned th haladiping and called for he lul : immediate release. Trad union groups called criming meetings for Friday.